



WE KNOW SERVICES

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report

Site

Huyton Hey Road, Huyton

Client

Knowsley MBC

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We Know Services
Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Huyton L16 3NA
E: info@weknowservices.co.uk
www.weknowservices.co.uk

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – Huyton Hey Road, Huyton



Quality Assurance

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Summary

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) commissioned by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC), was carried out for a proposed demolition of a disused office building on Huyton Hey Road, Huyton, Merseyside.

The purpose of the survey and report is to provide an ecological baseline and initial assessment of the potential impacts of the development proposals upon the nature conservation of the site and other ecological receptors.

In view of the results of the desk and field-based assessment of the site, the site is considered to be of relatively low ecological value in the local context and loss of biodiversity as a result of the proposed development is limited and can be mitigated for as part of the proposed development.

For the development to proceed in line with UK and EU legislation and Planning Policy relating to biodiversity, the recommendations contained within this report should be adopted.

Appropriate and proportionate mitigation should be considered at the design stage to ensure the LPA can fully assess the planning application and are aware of measures being taken to avoid an overall adverse impact. Aims should be put in place to maintain and where possible enhance the biodiversity value of the site in the long-term as part of the development proposals.

Where appropriate measures as recommended in the report are adopted, the development will be able to proceed having considered and addressed the necessary legislation and both local and national policy relating to biodiversity conservation.

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1. Introduction

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) commissioned by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, was carried out for a proposed demolition of a former office building on, Huyton Hey Road, Huyton, Merseyside.

The purpose of the survey and report is to provide an ecological baseline and initial assessment of the potential impacts of the development proposals upon the nature conservation of the site and other ecological receptors (in relation to the proposed demolition of the building).

1.1. Site Description

The site is located in an urban setting on Huyton Hey Road, Huyton (Grid Reference: SJ44375 90746). The building consists of four storeys with a flat roof with a fenced car park surrounding the majority of the building and towards the south of the building are a few trees. The wider side is predominantly urban infrastructure with local gardens to the southern side and adjacent eastern side with additional local green space consisting of a small woodland. See Appendix 1 and Figure 1 for site location in the wider context.



Figure 1. Site and surrounding landscape character.

1.2. Proposed Development

It is understood that proposals are for demolition of the existing building as part of a wider strategic development of Huyton town centre.

2. Methodology

2.1. Personnel & Quality Assurance

Rob Nicholson BSc (Hons) MCIEEM is a Class 2 Bat licence holder (Natural England), has over 15 years' relevant experience as an ecologist and is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Rob has also been 'named ecologist' on numerous European Protected Species Licences (EPSL) for bats for a range of species and roost types in both England and Wales.

All field work and assessment was undertaken in accordance with current best practice guidelines (CIEEM, 2016 & Collins, J. (Ed) 2016). The survey was undertaken on the 28th July 2023 along with the desk-based assessment.

This report has been prepared in accordance with guidance produced by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM 2017) and the British Standard 42020:2013.

2.2. Scope of the Assessment

The following ecological features / resources were considered during the assessment:

- Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated sites;
- Habitats of principal importance for conservation of biodiversity;
- Protected species;
- Species of principal importance for conservation of biodiversity;

- Other notable species.

No consultations have taken place in relation to determining the scope of the assessment.

2.3. Desk Study

To inform the survey, a desk study was conducted using available ecological information relating to ecology for the area surrounding the site. Online resources, including Multi-Agency Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC), were consulted in relation to the presence of sites and habitats of importance in the wider context.

A data request to the Local Records Centre (LRC) for the area (Wirral) was made for full species records and list of non-statutory designated sites (e.g., local wildlife sites) within 2 km of the site (full details available upon request).

Other organizations in the county that may hold relevant ecological data were not consulted (the full extent of data can be provided upon request).

It is important to note that most species are greatly under-recorded and therefore a lack of records for a location should not be taken as an absence of the species concerned.

Furthermore, a historical record for a habitat or species does not necessarily confirm its current presence.

2.4. Field Survey

Phase 1 Habitat Survey

A Phase 1 Habitat Survey was conducted on 23rd July 2023 based on the techniques and methodologies described in the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (JNCC 2010) and using standard nomenclature (Stace 2019).

The habitats present were recorded on to a field map (Appendix 3) along with digital photographs (Appendix 4), providing supplementary information on, for example, species composition structure and management where relevant. This was extended

to include notes on fauna and habitats which could potentially support protected species, an approach commonly referred to as an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey.

Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PRA)

The Preliminary Bat Roost assessment (PRA) involved a building inspection which was limited to the building subject of the proposals.

The building was inspected using close-focusing binoculars (Pentax Papilio 8.5 x 21) to determine possible access points such as cavities in walls and the roof structure. An internal inspection of all areas within the building was conducted where accessible. Using ladders, all accessible features were closely inspected using *Lenser H14* and *X21* cool light torches. Where possible, any cracks, crevices and likely access points or potential roost features were checked for signs of use by bats e.g., droppings, scratch marks and staining. An endoscope was used to inspect cavities that could be accessed safely via ladders.

Any trees on site with potentially suitable features to support bat roosts, and likely to be affected by proposals, were assessed from ground level.

2.5. Assessment and Evaluation

The importance of the habitat features on site were assessed and defined in a geographical context (see Appendix 5). The frame of reference for the habitat features in terms of their geographical importance is in line with guidance set out in CIEEM, 2018. Species are assessed, where appropriate, against best practice guidelines.

As part of the evaluation, further surveys may be recommended based on the suitability of habitats to support protected species, the habitats themselves and potential impacts posed by the proposed development, and the legal protection afforded to both habitats and species.

2.6. Zone of Influence

The assessment conducted for this report has considered the area in which ecological features could be subject to significant effects from the proposed development. The area of the potential effects is often wider than the actual perimeter of the development site and is known as the Zone of Influence.

The Zone of Influence varies for different ecological features and each designated site, habitat and species has been considered in relation to their sensitivity to the proposed development.

- Natural Improvement Area, Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)
- Bats - 1km (10km for importance bat sites – SACs for which bats are a qualifying feature).
- Great Crested Newt (GCN) ponds within 250m of the site
- Birds - Site level only
- Badger – 30 metres of site boundary
- Other notable species/habitats, particularly listed as UK and/or local Biodiversity Action Plan priority - site level only.

3. Constraints

The protected species assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of protected species occurring on the site. It should not be taken as providing a full and definitive survey of any protected species group.

Even where data for a particular species groups are provided in the desk study, a lack of records of a defined geographical area does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of ecological interest; the area may simply be under recorded.

The Phase 1 Habitat Survey does not constitute a full botanical survey or provide accurate mapping of invasive plant species and the survey was undertaken outside of the optimal period for botanical survey, with many species not evident or in flower.

Despite these limitations, it is considered that this report reflects accurately the habitats present, their biodiversity importance, and the potential for the site to support protected and notable species.

4. Baseline Ecological Conditions

4.1. Designated Sites

Statutory Designated Sites

According to the Natural England online mapping resource MAGIC, there are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the site.

Non-statutory sites

According to data supplied by Merseyside Biobank, the following non-statutory designated sites are located within 2 km of the site:

- *River Alt and M57 Corridor – Nature Improvement Area (700m north west)*
- *Huyton Lane Wetland – Knowsley Local Wildlife Site (800m north east)*
- *Ten Acre Pits, Huyton – Knowsley Local Wildlife Site (900m south west)*

None of the above sites intersect, or are in close proximity to, the proposed development site.

4.2. Habitats

The overall character of the site can be described as a highly developed urban site located adjacent to an enclosed local gardens and small areas of open green space consisting of a small woodland area to the east.

According to MAGIC there are the no mapped priority habitats in close proximity to the site.

Field Survey

The habitats identified during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey are listed and described below. All habitats are marked on the Phase 1 Habitat map in Appendix 3.

Building & Hardstanding

There is a single permanent building within the main site comprising of a large, four storey, concrete structure with a flat roof.

The building was assessed for the potential to support bats (Collins. J (ed) 2016) and inspected for evidence of nest birds. The building is regarded as having 'negligible potential' for supporting bat roosts due to a paucity of Potential Roost Features (PRFs), large number of streetlights and absence of evidence of bats.

No evidence of birds' nests was identified within the building at the time of survey.

Scattered Trees

There are two mature Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and one mature Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) trees located to the front entrance (southern aspect of the site).

To the north eastern edge of the site there are a group of relatively small Hornbeam trees planted amongst associated soft landscaping shrubs.

Ornamental Planting

There is ornamental planting associated with the trees described above and to the site boundaries. This is limited to Box Honeysuckle (*Lonicera nitida*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) forming carpets (small areas) beneath the tree canopies.

4.3. Species

Species relevant to habitats within the site, in close proximity or which could be otherwise affected by the proposals are covered below.

Bats

There are 35 records of bats, including roosts and species including Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Brown Long Eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) within 1km of the site. None of these coincide with or are in close proximity to the site boundary.

The closest record is of Common Pipistrelle emerging twice from the same building approximately 290m from the building in two separate survey years.

There were 34 records of granted European Protected Species Licences for bats identified but there are no important bat sites (SACs) within 10km of the site according to MAGIC.

The building was assessed as having 'negligible' potential for bats (Collins, J (ed) 2016), with no field signs of bats found. Details of the inspection are provided in Table 1 below.

Table.1 Building Inspection Results

Photo	Description
 	The building is of concrete construction (block base) with a flat roof. The building lacks potential roost feature and therefore offers no notable potential as a roost site for bats. There were no signs of previous bird nesting at the time of survey. Potential Roost Features: None Evidence: <u>No</u> Bat Roost Assessment: <u>Negligible Potential</u>

The trees within the site boundary do not possess any visible potential roost features (PRFs) for bats and given the proximity to high levels of artificial lighting (street lights and adjacent McDonalds and bus station) the suitability of the trees is further reduced.

Amphibians & Reptiles

There is no record of Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) within 1km of the site but there are three records of smooth newts (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) and several records of Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) but no reptile records within 1km of the site provided by Merseyside Biobank.

According to MAGIC website, there are no records of granted European Protected Species Licences for Great Crested Newt within 500m of the site.

There are no ponds with connectivity to the site with 250m nor suitable habitat to support terrestrial status newts or other amphibians. The majority of habitat within the site is of negligible value to amphibians and reptiles.

Birds

There are numerous records of notable bird species within 1km of the site. Those that are note (e.g., Schedule 1 or NERC Act S41 'Species of Principal Importance, Birds of Conservation Concern and/or IUCN Red List) and that specifically relate to the habitats present within, or adjacent, to the site are as follows:

- Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)
- Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*)
- Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
- Lesser Redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*)
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*)
- Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*)
- Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
- Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)
- Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
- Greater Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)
- Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)
- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)
- Corn bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)
- Grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*)
- Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)
- Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)
- Yellow Hammer (*Emberiza citrinella*)

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – Land on Corner of Prenton Road East / Church Road, Wirral

None of these records are in close proximity to the site and habitats present are of limited suitability for nesting birds due to the urban location. There is potential for the three mature trees to the southern aspect of the site to support common species of nesting birds such as Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*).

Other Notable Species

There are a number of records of Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) within the area however, the site does not contain habitat such as hedgerows or grassland, and ground cover is limited to small areas of soft landscaping shrubs and ivy.

Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)

There are numerous records of non-native invasive weeds (listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) within 1km of the site. These include:

- Canadian Water Weed (*Elodea canadensis*)
- Japanese Knotweed – (*Reynoutria japonica*)
- Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*)
- Montbretia (*Crocasmia aurea*)
- New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*)
- Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
- Rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp.)

There were no non-native invasive plant species (listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) recorded on site at the time of survey.

Notable Flora

There are five records of English Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) within 1km of the site. The nearest is 850m south west of the site.

Other rare or particularly notable plant species within 1km of the site are:

- Corn Marigold (*Glebionis segetum*)
- Corn Spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*)
- Field Woundwort (*Stachys arvensis*)
- Heath Dog-Violet (*Viola canina*)
- Large-leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*)
- Marsh Sow-thistle (*Sonchus palustris*)

- Water-soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*)
- Welsh Poppy (*Meconopsis cambrica*)
- Box (*Buxus sempervirens*)

None of the species above were recorded nor any other notable place species and it is unlikely that any will be present in the future as there is no suitable land to host these species.

5. PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATION

5.1. National Planning Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2021, is an update to the previous version issued in February 2019, and is a policy framework document which provide a range of important principles. Paragraph 174 of the NPPF states that decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural local environment by:

'Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.'

Paragraph 175 goes on to state:

'... take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.'

With respect to protection of habitats and biodiversity, paragraph 179 states development plans should:

- a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity⁶¹; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation⁶²; and
- b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles (paragraph 180):

'Development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported.'

'opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.'

5.2. Local Planning Policy

Table 2 details the policies within Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted January 2016) which are relevant to the ecological features present on site.

Table 3: Summary of relevant local planning policy

Policy	Description
Policy CS8	Maintenance and Enhancement of Knowsley's Existing Green Infrastructure:
Green Infrastructure	1) Knowsley's existing Green Infrastructure and its beneficial functions will be protected, managed and/or enhanced, primarily to: a) Ensure more attractive and cleaner residential neighbourhoods; b) Sustain and promote biodiversity (including designated sites, priority habitats and protected and endangered species) in accordance with importance and contribution to ecological networks; c) Preserve the character and function of historic environments and valued landscapes; d) Mitigate the effects of climate change and flood risk; e) Mitigate air, water and noise pollution; f) Provide local opportunities for sport, recreation and allotments; and g) Provide sustainable transport linkages between residential neighbourhoods and easy access to employment and services. 2) To achieve the above, planning powers and other interventions will be used to: a) Protect and enhance strategically important areas of greenspace; b) Ensure an appropriate quantity and improved quality of locally important open spaces, including outdoor sports provision (and ancillary facilities of appropriate scale); c) Promote effective movement of wildlife through a network of strategic green links, by protecting, maintaining and improving existing and new open spaces, water courses (including water quality) and biodiversity assets; d) Protect, enhance and/or introduce biodiversity into existing areas of Green Infrastructure, through integration into the design of new development and public realm projects; e) Improve accessibility for communities to greenspace offering leisure and

	recreation opportunities; f) Protect and where possible improve green paths and cycleways linking residential areas, existing strategic areas of greenspace, employment locations, local community services and leisure facilities; g) Work in partnership with other districts and relevant bodies at a landscape scale to minimise the impact of development upon Knowsley's existing biodiversity and geological assets, and sustain the protection afforded to internationally important sites, including supporting habitat, for biodiversity outside of the borough; and h) Deliver new integrated and functional Green Infrastructure that helps to mitigate and adapt to climate change, such as sustainable drainage systems, carbon capture and storage, soft landscaping and green roofs. Strategic Green Links 4) Knowsley's strategically important green links are: a) Alt Corridor (Huyton) – stretching from Huyton Village through South Alt Park, Alt Park, Alt Meadows and into Stockbridge Village; b) Valley Corridor (Kirkby) – stretching through Valley Meadow, St. Chad's Park, Millbrook Park, Millennium Green and Mill Dam; c) Whiston to Cronton Corridor – stretching through Cronton, Stadt Moers Park and Whiston Greenway; d) Halewood Triangle – Halewood Park linkage with the Trans-Pennine Trail and to the national cycle network; e) M57 Green Belt Corridor; and f) Knowsley Hall Estate – including Knowsley Safari Park and Local Wildlife Sites. Approach to Green Infrastructure and New Development 6) New development must be served by Green Infrastructure to meet the needs of residents and the local environment, in a manner which will: a) Contribute to the creation of a high-quality residential environment; b) Provide access to high quality open space for leisure and recreational purposes; c) Seek to protect, maintain and where possible enhance biodiversity within and around new developments according to their designation and significance to provide space for nature; and d) Provide adequate mitigation and/or, as a last resort, compensation for Green Infrastructure or biodiversity loss, in circumstances where harm resulting from the development is otherwise unavoidable.
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Policy CS2 Development Principles	Principle 4: Recognise environmental limits, protect and enhance environmental assets, enhance local character and promote quality of place by: (h) Maintaining or enhancing the quantity and quality of biodiversity and habitats, including potential impacts on nationally and internationally important sites for biodiversity;
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5.3. Relevant Legislation

National Legislation

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain.

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places a duty upon all local authorities in England to promote and enhance biodiversity in all of their functions. Section 41 lists habitats and species of principal importance to the conservation of biodiversity. Fifty-six habitats and 943 species of Principal Importance for Conservation are included on the Section 41 list and draws upon the UK BAP List of Priority Species and Habitats.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC, on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive), into national law and transpose elements of the EU Wild Birds Directive in England and Wales. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites' (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)), the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European sites.

The Environment Act 2021

The Environment Bill has now been entered into legislation becoming The Environment Act 2021, and provides a tool to implement changes in England across environmental sectors including air quality, biodiversity, water, and waste reduction

and resource efficiency. The Act includes a target to halt the decline of nature by 2030, and mandates [Biodiversity Net Gain](#) for developments. The Act is described as:

“A Bill to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the Office for Environmental Protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards; about water; about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes”.

Species Legislation

Bats

In England, all British bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

These pieces of legislation combine to give substantial protection to bats and their roost sites, making it an offence to:

Deliberately or intentionally kill, injure or take a bat;

Damage, destroy or intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection (this is taken to mean all bat roosts whether bats are present or not);

Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection.

Birds

Breeding wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, a wild bird is defined as any bird of a species that is resident in or is a visitor to the European Territory of any member state in a wild state. Game birds however are not included in this definition (except for limited parts of the Act). They are covered by the Game Acts, which fully protect them during the close season. All birds, their nests and eggs are protected and it is thus an offence, with certain exceptions to:

intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;

intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built;

intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;

have in one's possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive, or any part of a wild bird, which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954;

have in one's possession or control any egg or part of an egg which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954;

use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds; and

have in one's possession or control any bird of a species occurring on Schedule 4 of the Act unless registered, and in most cases ringed, in accordance with the Secretary of State's regulations.

Additionally, for some species listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the adults while they are in and around their nest or intentionally or recklessly disturb their dependent young.

Other Mammals

All mammals in the UK are protected under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996. An Act providing protection for wild mammals against certain acts of deliberate harm. "Wild mammal" means any mammal which is not a "protected animal" within the meaning of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (Schedule 3, Section 13 of the 2006 Act). The following offences are specified in relation to any wild mammal: to mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate. The offences require proof of intent to inflict unnecessary suffering.

6. Ecological Evaluation, Recommendations for Mitigation and Further Survey

6.1. Designated Sites

Due to the scale of the proposed development and distance/disconnect from any statutory or non-statutory designated sites, no impacts upon such sites are anticipated because of the proposed development.

6.2. Habitats

The building on site is largely of limited value for biodiversity due to lack of potential roost features for bats and an absence of any evidence of nesting birds. There is no priority habitat and it is of low value generally.

There is a small woodland copse ~30 to the north east of the site boundary (beyond Lathom Road). Again, it is not anticipated that the woodland will be affected by the development.

6.3. Species and Species Groups

Bats

The site is unlikely to provide any significant foraging habitat for bats and the artificial lighting in the vicinity of the site likely to be high (therefore deterring bats from the area or at least limiting the extent of activity).

The building will be demolished in its entirety. This building does not provide any potential roosting habitat for bats and as such there will be no adverse impact and as such no further detailed surveys for bats will be necessary in relation to the buildings.

No trees were identified on site with potential for supporting bat roosts.

Amphibians & Reptiles

In view of the absence of records within 1km of the site and field survey assessment of habitats, it is considered that there is negligible potential for Great Crested Newt or other amphibians to utilise the site.

Birds

The site contains limited habitat with potential to support nesting birds. This is limited to the three mature trees to the southern aspect of the site.

Birds nest in the breeding season between March and August. It is therefore recommended that any required vegetation removal works are scheduled for outside of the breeding period (ideally September–February inclusive) to avoid any potential conflicts with nesting birds and contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Where this is not possible, a check for nesting birds should be undertaken prior to site clearance (though there is a risk that if a nest is present, this could lead to delays in works in the areas occupied by nesting birds).

Planting of trees on a “two for one” basis for any trees removed will provide compensatory nesting habitat for species that may presently use the site in the long term. In addition, it is recommended that bird boxes are installed in the woodland copse (opposite side of Lathom Road) to enhance nesting opportunities for birds in the vicinity of the site. These could include general purpose nest boxes such as Woodstone Nest boxes or Woodpecker nest boxes.

Other Notable Species

With respect to Hedgehog, clearance of ground cover and brash should take care to avoid harm to Hedgehogs if present. Where present they should be left undisturbed and allowed to disperse of their own accord.

7. Conclusions

In view of the results of the desk and field-based assessment of the site, the site is considered to be of relatively low ecological value in the local context and loss of biodiversity as a result of the proposed development is limited and can be mitigated for as part of the proposed development.

The site may support nesting birds during the breeding season, which will require consideration and precautionary working measures during the works in order to comply with planning policy and legislative requirements.

For the development to proceed in line with UK and EU legislation and Planning Policy relating to biodiversity, the recommendations contained within this report should be adopted.

Where appropriate measures as recommended in the report are adopted, the development will be able to proceed having considered and addressed the necessary legislation and both local and national policy relating to biodiversity conservation.

8. References

BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity - Code of Practice for Planning and Development.

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Stace. C. A. (2019). *New British Flora of the British Isles*. 4th Edition. Cambridge University Press.

Appendix I: Site Location Plan

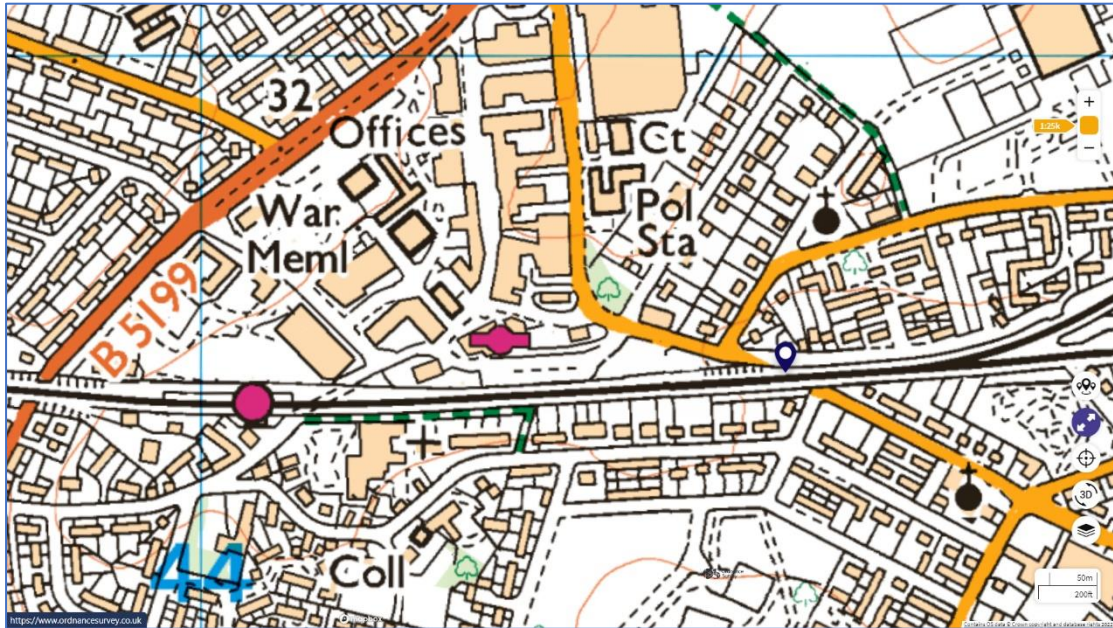


Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey accessed via Bing Maps ©Microsoft 2023

Appendix 2: Desk Study Data

SEE NEXT PAGE



Biodiversity Information Report 08/08/2023

**MBB reference: 3948-SRN
Site: Huyton Hey Road**

Your Ref: None supplied
Your contact: Rob

MBB Ref: 3948-SRN
MBB Contact: Catie Haworth

Date: 08/08/2023

Merseyside BioBank biodiversity information report

These are the results of your data request relating to **an area at Huyton Hey Road defined by a buffer of 1000 metres around the centre of grid reference SJ 44375 90746.**

You have been supplied with the following:

- records of **protected** taxa that intersect the search area
- records of **BAP** taxa that intersect the search area
- records of **Red Listed** taxa that intersect the search area
- records of other '**notable**' taxa that intersect the search area
- records of WCA schedule 9 taxa (including '**invasive plants**') that intersect the search area
- a map showing the location of monad and tetrad references that overlap the search area
- a list of all **designated sites** that intersect your search area
- citations, where available, for intersecting Local Wildlife Sites
- a list of **other sites of interest** (e.g. Ancient Woodlands) that intersect your search area
- a map showing such sites
- a list of all **BAP habitats** which intersect the search area
- a map showing BAP habitats
- a summary of the area for all available mapped **Phase 1 and/or NVC habitats** found within 500m of your site
- a map showing such habitats

Merseyside BioBank (MBB) is the Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) for North Merseyside. We collect and collate biological and environmental information and make it available to people and organisations that have need to access such information in North Merseyside. We promote the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan and wider participation in biological recording and conservation through education, community involvement and by supporting the biological recording community of North Merseyside.

Merseyside BioBank is an information node of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and integrate records from our own databases with those of the NBN Atlas.

The product charge for this data request is not a charge for the data themselves, but rather a fixed rate that enables us to cover a portion of our running costs. Our annual income from data requests is something less than 20% of our total running costs.

Species records

The biological records held by Merseyside BioBank come from a variety of sources; from large organisations to individual amateur naturalists. Merseyside BioBank operates as managers or custodians of these records but the individuals and groups, who provide their records free of charge, retain copyright on their data. Without their contribution, we would not be able to provide the records included in this report. Their efforts, expertise and goodwill make a substantial contribution to the protection of North Merseyside's biodiversity.

You may only use the records in this document subject to our access terms and conditions which can be found in Appendix 1. Non-adherence to these terms and

conditions will be viewed as a breach of contract, which may result in legal redress being sought.

This report also integrates records from the NBN Atlas. Some NBN data providers give us permission to download and integrate their records at a higher resolution than available through public access in order to contribute to the protection of North Merseyside's biodiversity.

Details of the biological records summarised in the following tables, and the sources from which they are derived, are included in a separate excel file. Note that the date ranges in the summary tables (headed 'Dates') show the earliest and latest years for which records have been summarised for each taxon.

UK Protected Species

'UK Protected species' are those taxa specifically identified by UK legislation including: Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The latter regulations enact the European Union's (EU) Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in the UK and supercede The Conservation Regulations 1994 and 2010. In our list of protected species, you may see designations that refer to schedules in the 1994 and 2010 regulations, but these remain unchanged under the 2017 regulations.

Some protected species may not be legally disturbed unless you are in possession of an appropriate license. If you are in any doubt as to whether or not a license is required, you should contact Natural England.

The following tables detail the protected species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
amphibian	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	15	1996-2020	WCA5/9.5a
	Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1	2011	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
	Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	3	1990	WCA5/9.5a
bird	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	2	1997-1998	WCA1i
	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	1997	WCA1i
	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	1	1997	WCA1i
flowering plant	Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	5	1996-2019	WCA8
terrestrial mammal	Bat	<i>Chiroptera</i>	8	1990-2020	HabRegs2
	Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	1	2002	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
	Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	20	2002-2022	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
	Eurasian Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	1	2015	PBA
	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	4	1999-2010	WCA5/9.4.a,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.4c
	Feral Ferret	<i>Mustela putorius subsp. furo</i>	1	1993	HabRegs4
	Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	2	2017-2019	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
	Pipistrelle Bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	2	1996	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
	Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	2	2012-2019	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
WCA5/9.5a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5a)	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.
HabRegs2	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 2)	Schedule 2- European protected species of animals.
WCA5/9.4b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4b)	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
WCA5/9.4c	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5)	Animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.
WCA1i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)	Birds and their young, for which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb at, on or near an active nest. They are protected by special penalties at all times.
WCA8	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 8)	Plants which are protected from intentional picking, uprooting or destruction (Section 13 1a); selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative) (Section 13 2a); advertising (any of these) for buying or selling (Section 13 2b).
PBA	Protection of Badgers Act (1992)	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 protects badgers from taking, injuring, killing, cruel treatment, selling, possessing, marking and having their setts interfered with, subject to exceptions.
WCA5/9.4.a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4, subdivision a)	Section 9.4 subdivision a - Animals which are protected from intentional damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection.
HabRegs4	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 4)	Schedule 4- Animals which may not be taken or killed in certain ways

North Merseyside BAP Species

The North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan (NM BAP) was published in September 2001 and last reviewed in 2008. Like other Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) its purpose is to focus local conservation on national priority species and habitats. However, LBAPs also embrace the idea of 'local distinctiveness' and species which are not considered UK conservation priorities can be catered for by LBAPs if they are of particular local significance. Such is the case with the NM BAP which currently names 74 species of which 57 are not conservation priority species but are included because their conservation is considered to be a priority in North Merseyside.

The following tables detail the North Merseyside BAP species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
amphibian	Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1	2011	LBAP
bird	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	2	1997-1999	LBAP
	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	5	1997-2007	LBAP
	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	6	1997-1999	LBAP
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	12	1997-2001	LBAP
	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	4	1990-2007	LBAP
	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	8	1997-2010	LBAP
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	7	1997-2010	LBAP
	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	6	1997-2010	LBAP
	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	3	1997-1999	LBAP
flowering plant	Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	5	1996-2019	LBAP
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	1	1998	LBAP
	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	2	1989-2007	LBAP
	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	6	1989-2021	LBAP
	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	9	1989-2012	LBAP
	Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	8	2007-2012	LBAP

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
	Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	1	1998	LBAP
	Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	1	2020	LBAP
terrestrial mammal	Bat	<i>Chiroptera</i>	8	1990-2020	LBAP
	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	2	1998-2010	LBAP
	Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	1	2002	LBAP
	Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	20	2002-2022	LBAP
	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	4	1999-2010	LBAP
	Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	2	2017-2019	LBAP
	Pipistrelle Bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	2	1996	LBAP
	Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	2	2012-2019	LBAP

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
LBAP	North Merseyside BAP	Species that are incorporated within the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan. These species may or may not also be UK BAP species. Some species have their own action plans within the NM BAP, others are members of group species action plans.

NM BAP species: Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

Great Crested Newt is thought to have been in decline since the 1940s. Over a period of five years in the 1980s 2% of all UK colonies were lost, and although Britain remains a stronghold for this species, it is now considered to be dependant on conservation and is afforded international protection.

There is no current North Merseyside population estimate, though recent surveys suggest that in the general North West area around 25% of ponds have Great Crested Newts. A study of the parts of the Sefton Coast showed that a number of populations were present.

This species is highly dependant on the quality of ponds and also the habitat in the surrounding area (where they forage and hibernate away from the water). Habitat loss is the greatest cause of decline with many ponds being drained or drying up as a result of natural succession. Removal of scrub and woodland in addition to over-grazing and intensive management of surrounding grassland is also detrimental. Other factors which may affect population levels include predation by fish and waterfowl, habitat fragmentation and pollution.

NM BAP species: Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)

Nationally this species has significantly declined with a loss of 90% of the UK population between 1970 and 2005 and large contractions in the species range.

Locally Corn Bunting is thought to have undergone severe declines with only an estimated 200 pairs remaining in 1997-99. Corn Buntings are sparsely distributed across much of North Merseyside's arable farmland.

Declines are thought to be caused by changes in agricultural practices. Sowing cereals later in the year, increasing use of herbicide and the removal of fallow fields have all greatly reduced winter seed sources. Increasing use of pesticides has reduced the availability of invertebrate food sources. Earlier crop harvesting may also result in the destruction of some nests, especially where there are limited uncropped areas.

NM BAP species: Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

The UK population of Grey Partridge declined by 88% between 1970 and 2005 and though still

widespread shows distinct variation according to agricultural practices. In North Merseyside there were an estimated 300 pairs in 1997-99 and they are present in all suitable habitat.

Loss of suitable habitat is the main cause of decline in this species, with changes in agricultural practices being particularly detrimental. The amalgamation of small fields into a larger ones and the removal of hedgerows, ditches and other field margins have destroyed potential nesting sites. Changes in sowing, harvesting and crop type have removed essential winter food sources.

NM BAP species: Urban Birds (*Delichon urbicum*; *Passer domesticus*; *Sturnus vulgaris*; *Apus apus*)

The four species covered by the NM BAP Urban Birds Species Action Plan (House Martin, Swift, House Sparrow and Starling) are considered to be in significant decline across the UK. In North Merseyside House Sparrows and Starlings currently breed in all urban areas, while House Martins are restricted to areas nearer sources of mud for nest-building. Swifts occurred in only 55 tetrads during 1997-2000.

Urban bird numbers are thought to relate strongly to the availability of prey species, and nesting opportunities.

Declines are most likely caused by the reduction in the diversity and abundance of invertebrate prey species resulting from increased 'tidiness' in our parks and gardens, the use of pesticides and other changes in farm practices. The exclusion of urban birds from breeding in or around modern buildings reduces nesting opportunities for urban birds.

NM BAP species: Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Between 1987 and 1998 Lapwing declined by 48% in England and Wales with Wales and the SW of England showing greatest loss. Two thirds of the population is now resident in the N and NW of England.

Locally this species continues to breed in all suitable habitats and the 2002-03 surveys indicated a population of around 1,500 pairs with arable farmland and pockets of grassland being particularly favoured.

Local threats are thought to include development in nesting areas, increasing recreation and disturbance, scrub encroachments on coastal grassland and changes in farm practice towards silage production, livestock and agricultural intensification.

NM BAP species: Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

Although Skylark is widespread throughout Europe and large numbers are thought to breed in the UK, it is in significant decline with a fall in the population of 75% between 1972 and 1996 on lowland farms and an overall fall in the UK population of 53% between 1970 and 2005.

Locally Skylark breeds in all remaining suitable habitat and in 1997-2000 there were 750 breeding pairs but declines are thought to reflect the national trend.

This species relies heavily on traditional arable farming and so declines have largely been due to changes in farming practices in recent decades. Conversion to silage production, changes in sowing times and general agricultural intensification have all been particularly detrimental by reducing nesting habitat and sources of food.

Other causes of decline include overgrazing, disturbance during the breeding season and loss of grassland to development and tree planting.

NM BAP species: Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

Although still widespread, Song Thrush declined sharply by around 73% in farmland (mid 1970s) and 49% in woodland (1968-1993), while overall UK numbers fell by 50% between 1970 and 2005. The North of the UK is thought to have been hit hardest.

In North Merseyside, though thinly distributed, Song Thrush still breed in most areas with an estimated 500 pairs during 1997-2000. Highest breeding concentrations were found to occur in suburban areas where abundant garden and parkland habitats were present.

Song Thrush are reliant on a variety of habitats to meet their needs at different times of the year and loss of these habitats causes a reduction in numbers.

Local factors in the decline of the species include changes in farm practices that remove nesting habitat (hedgerows and dense scrub), limit the abundance of winter food (changes in sowing, cropping and use of herbicides/molluscicides) or cause the loss of feeding habitat (use of pesticides/herbicides and monocropping).

NM BAP species: Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

British Bluebells make up about 20% of the global population of *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and are often found in humid woodland habitat, along hedgerows and on occasion along the coast. Locally there are a number of good colonies.

Local threats to the species include possible over-shading in un-managed woodlands, localised trampling by the public in popular areas and hybridisation with the Spanish Bluebell. On a national scale declines are caused by the loss of woodland habitat, grazing by introduced Muntjac, collection of plants and hybridisation with Spanish Bluebell.

NM BAP species: Dragonflies (*Coenagrion puella*; *Ischnura elegans*; *Enallagma cyathigerum*; *Sympetrum striolatum*; *Anax imperator*; *Pyrhosoma nymphula*; *Aeshna mixta*)
Twentyone species of dragonfly and damselfly are included in the NM BAP Dragonflies Species Action Plan. These include vagrant species and some which are thought to be undergoing range expansions in the UK. Eighteen of these species are known to breed in our local area, with significant breeding sites in St Helens and Sefton.

Local causes of decline in this include the destruction or damage of essential wetland habitat through development, waste-tipping and agricultural run-off. Removal of nearby feeding habitats such as woodlands, hedgerows and tall vegetation is also detrimental.

NM BAP species: Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

Whilst still well distributed in North Merseyside it is thought that the local population of Brown Hare declined in-line with National trends which have shown severe declines in the western pastoral parts of the country to around 20% of the numbers present in Victorian times.

Reasons for local declines are thought to include loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat to development, illegal hunting and changes in farming practices and land use that cause increased disturbance (changes in cropping/sowing times, livestock trampling and recreation).

NM BAP species: Bats (*Plecotus auritus*; *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*; *Nyctalus noctula*; *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

The NM BAP Bats Species Action Plan covers all species found in North Merseyside since all are considered to be locally threatened.

Bat Species are found throughout North Merseyside, with Pipistrelles (Common/Soprano) most often encountered and Brown Long-eared and Noctules less common. Daubenton's are also frequently encountered in suitable wetland habitat. Whiskered, Brandt's and Natterers are considered rare locally.

Bat species will roost in many locations that are warm, dark, sheltered and little undisturbed. Such places can include derelict buildings, barns, roof spaces and tree hollows.

Factors causing declines in these species include the loss of prey insects due to the increased use of pesticides and general park/garden 'tidiness', loss and fragmentation of habitat mosaics, loss of winter roosts in old trees and buildings and intentional exclusion from buildings by people.

NM BAP species: Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)

This species is found throughout Britain but localised to areas of suitable habitat near water. Previously common this species has undergone severe range and population reductions, with a national survey showing a decline of around 89% since 1939, estimated to increased to a loss of 94% by 2000.

Merseyside appears to be a stronghold for the species with 75% of sites surveyed having Water Voles present in 1989-90. Though they may still be in decline locally, it is thought to be at a lower level than nationally.

Local declines in the species are caused by inappropriate management of bank-side habitats and waterside developments as well as predation by invasive species such as mink. The use of rodenticides and loss of habitat connectivity may also be factors in population declines.

NERC Act Section 41 Species

Known also as 'Species of Principle Importance in England' and the 'England Biodiversity List' this list was developed to meet the requirements of Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). The list is derived, almost wholly, from the 2012 revised list of 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' priority species. (So called 'research only' moth species have been excluded from the report.). The section 41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 'to have regard' to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions. In particular:

- Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities must use it to identify the species that should be afforded priority when applying the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to maintain, restore and enhance species and habitats.
- Local Planning Authorities must use it to identify the species that require specific consideration in dealing with planning and development control, recognising that under

NPPF the aim of planning decisions should be to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity.

- All Public Bodies must use it to identify species that should be given priority when implementing the NERC Section 40 duty.

The following tables detail the NERC Section 41 species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
amphibian	Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1	2011	Sect.41
bird	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2	1998-1999	Sect.41.suppl
	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	2	1997-1999	Sect.41.suppl
	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	6	1997-2010	Sect.41.suppl
	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	1	1999	Sect.41
	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	5	1997-2007	Sect.41
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	12	1997-2001	Sect.41
	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	4	1990-2007	Sect.41
	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	1	1999	Sect.41
	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	1	1999	Sect.41.suppl
	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	4	1997-1999	Sect.41.suppl
	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	6	1997-2007	Sect.41
	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	8	1997-2010	Sect.41,Sect.41.suppl
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	7	1997-2010	Sect.41.suppl
	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1	1997	Sect.41
	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	6	1997-2010	Sect.41.suppl
	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	2	1997-1998	Sect.41
	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2	1999-2005	Sect.41
flowering plant	Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	1	2012	Sect.41
insect - moth	Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	8	2009	Sect.41
	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania comma</i>	2	2007-2009	Sect.41
terrestrial mammal	Bat	<i>Chiroptera</i>	8	1990-2020	Sect.41
	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	2	1998-2010	Sect.41
	Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	1	2002	Sect.41
	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	4	1999-2010	Sect.41
	Feral Ferret	<i>Mustela putorius subsp. furo</i>	1	1993	Sect.41
	Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	2	2017-2019	Sect.41
	Pipistrelle Bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	2	1996	Sect.41
	Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	2	2012-2019	Sect.41
	West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	47	1994-2022	Sect.41

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
Sect.41	Natural Env. and Rural Communities Act 2006. Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41)	Species "of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.
Sect.41.suppl	Supplementary list to deal with S41 bird sub-sp problems	Bird species corresponding to British sub-species listed in section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006).

IUCN Red-listed Species

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (sometimes called 'Red Data Book' species) indicates the conservation status of plants and animals that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. The system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those plants and animals that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). The IUCN Red List also includes information on plants and animals that are categorized as 'Extinct' or 'Extinct in the Wild'; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information ('Data Deficient'); and on plants and animals that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme ('Near Threatened').

The following tables detail the IUCN Red-listed species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
flowering plant	Box	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	1	2019	RLGB.DD
	Corn Marigold	<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	2	2010-2012	RLGB.VU
	Corn Spurrey	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	3	1987-2005	RLGB.VU
	Field Woundwort	<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	1	2010	RLGB.Lr(NT)
	Heath Dog-violet	<i>Viola canina</i>	1	2007	RLGB.Lr(NT)
fungus	Leccinum melaneum	<i>Leccinum melaneum</i>	1	2014	RLGB.DD
	Slate Bolete	<i>Leccinum duriusculum</i>	8	2010-2019	RLGB.Lr(NT)
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Alder Leaf Beetle	<i>Agelastica alni</i>	7	2018-2019	RLGB.DD
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	9	1989-2012	RLGB.DD
mollusc	Large Black Slug	<i>Arion (Arion) ater</i>	1	2011	RLGB.DD
terrestrial mammal	Bat	<i>Chiroptera</i>	8	1990-2020	RLGB.CR,RLGB.DD,RLGB.EN,RLGB.Lr(NT),RLGB.VU
	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	4	1999-2010	RLGB.EN
	Pipistrelle Bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	2	1996	RLGB.Lr(NT)
	West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	47	1994-2022	RLGB.VU

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
RLGB.DD	IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat or Lower Risk. Listing of taxa in this category indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research will show that a threatened category is appropriate.
RLGB.VU	IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.
RLGB.Lr(NT)	IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.
RLGB.CR	IUCN (2001) - Critically endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.
RLGB.EN	IUCN (2001) - Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.

Nationally Notable Species

These are plants and animals which do not fall within red-list categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain.

The following tables detail the Nationally Notable species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
flowering plant	Box	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	1	2019	NR-excludes
	Large-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	8	1989-2019	NS-excludes
	Marsh Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus palustris</i>	1	2010	NS-excludes
	Water-soldier	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	4	1984-1998	NR-excludes
	Welsh Poppy	<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	1	2020	NS-excludes
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Anaglyptus mysticus	<i>Anaglyptus mysticus</i>	2	2003	Nb
	Euplectus duponti	<i>Euplectus duponti</i>	1	1989	N
	Medon apicalis	<i>Medon apicalis</i>	2	1947	N

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
NS-excludes	Nationally Scarce. Excludes Red Listed taxa	Nationally Scarce - Occurring in 16-100 hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria
NR-excludes	Nationally Rare. Excludes Red Listed taxa	Nationally Rare - Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.
Nb	Nationally Notable B	Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in between 31 and 100 10km squares of the National Grid or, for less-well recorded groups between eight and twenty vice-counties. Superseded by Nationally Scarce, and therefore no longer in use.
N	Nationally Notable	Species which are estimated to occur within the range of 16 to 100 10km squares. (subdivision into Notable A and Notable B is not always possible because there may be insufficient information available). Superseded by Nationally Scarce, and therefore no longer in use.

WCA schedule 9 species (including non-native invasive plants)

Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (amended 2010) lists species of plants and animals for which it is a specific offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild (plants) or release or allow to escape into the wild (animals). Many of these are invasive non-native plants and animals, but there are also a number of native animals on the list (e.g. Barn Owl) which cannot be released into the wild in England without a license from Natural England.

The following tables detail the WCA Schedule 9 species recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
bird	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	2	1997-1998	MBB-WCA-S9
flowering plant	Canadian Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	2	1984-2010	MBB-WCA-S9
	Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	2	2004-2007	MBB-WCA-S9
	Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	19	1983-2020	MBB-WCA-S9
	Japanese Rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	1	2021	MBB-WCA-S9
	Montbretia	<i>Crocasmia pottsii</i> x <i>aurea</i> = <i>C. x crocosmiiflora</i>	1	1984	MBB-WCA-S9
	New Zealand Pigmyweed	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	1	1997	MBB-WCA-S9
	Rhododendron ponticum	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	5	1984-2019	MBB-WCA-S9
terrestrial mammal	Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	99	2006-2022	MBB-WCA-S9

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
MBB-WCA-S9	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 9) (England and Wales) Order 2010	Species on Schedule 9 (part 2) as revised 2010. Under section 14 of the Act it is illegal to release into the wild any animal or allow to grow in the wild any plant which is not ordinarily resident in GB or which is a known threat and is listed on Schedule 9 of the Act.

BAP priority habitats

In 2007 the Local Biodiversity Manager (responsible for the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan) undertook a review of the extent of UK BAP priority habitats in North Merseyside and produced GIS layers to show their extents. In most cases these inventories were derived from two main sources: the latest Phase 1 habitat surveys which were conducted for the four North Merseyside local authorities between 1996 and 2007; and an NVC survey of the Sefton Coast carried out between 2003 and 2004. A separate NVC survey of the Ribble estuary carried out in 2002 (which also included saltmarsh at the Alt) was also useful as were one or two other sources. Because of the diverse nature of habitat classifications, it was not always possible to produce inventories with a one-to-one correspondence with UK BAP priority habitats. The table below shows the BAP habitat inventories for North Merseyside and their correspondence with UK BAP priority habitats.

North Merseyside habitat inventory	Correspondence with UK BAP priority habitats
Lowland Acid Grassland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
Lowland Heathland	Lowland Heathland
Lowland Raised Bog	Lowland Raised Bog
Neutral Grassland	Incorporates the UK BAP habitat Lowland Meadows but also, in North Merseyside, includes a lot of amenity grassland, road verges etc.
Calcareous Grassland	Calcareous Grassland
Ponds	Ponds
Lakes	Eutrophic lakes
Reedbeds	Reedbeds
Hedgerows	Hedgerows
Saltmarsh	Coast Saltmarsh
Sand Dune	Coastal Sand Dune
All Woodland	It was not possible, from the available data, to produce separate inventories for different woodland types in North Merseyside, so this inventory incorporates elements of several UK BAP priority habitats such as Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland and Wood Pasture & Parkland.

Note that the 'Ponds' BAP inventory was derived locally using water bodies less than two hectares in extent from Ordnance Survey data. The 'Lakes' BAP inventory is a nationally supplied inventory, but the lakes are only represented in this as points. Therefore any water body over two hectares in extent will only be represented on our habitat maps by a point and will not show the extent of the lake. However, ponds will be indicated by polygons showing their extent. Occasionally a large pond – though still less than two hectares in extent – will be represented in both the 'Lake' and 'Pond' inventories.

Habitat	Amount	Units
Hedgerows	0.26	kilometres
All Woodland	6.09	hectares
Neutral Grassland	4.76	hectares
Ponds	0.08	hectares
Ponds	3	count

The table above indicates the extent of each of the BAP habitat inventories (see previous table) occurring within your search area (see appendix 2 for maps).

Detailed habitat mapping

Merseyside BioBank collates and maintains detailed habitat mapping – normally Phase 1 or NVC – for the North Merseyside area. This includes both historic data and the most up-to-date habitat survey data available. Here we report on the detailed habitat mapping we hold for your search area.

Ref: EN-CBA-Coastal		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region.		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Coastal Core Biodiversity Areas. See http://www.lcreconet.uk/ for further information.		
CBA General features		
Gen1	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	0.04 ha

Ref: EN-CBA-Grassland		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Grassland Core Biodiversity Areas. See http://www.lcreconet.uk/ for further information.		
CBA Grassland		
Gr1	Grasslands	1.62 ha
Gr6	Lowland Meadow	5.43 ha

Ref: EN-CBA-Wetland		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Wetland Core Biodiversity Areas. See http://www.lcreconet.uk/ for further information.		
CBA General features		
Gen4	Reedbeds	1.84 ha

Ref: EN-CBA-Woodland		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Woodland Core Biodiversity Areas. See http://www.lcreconet.uk/ for further information.		
CBA General features		
Gen3	Local Wildlife Site	1.4 ha
CBA Woodland		
Wo3	Lowland Mixed Broad-leaf Woodland	9.11 ha
Wo4	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	9.87 ha
Wo9	Wet Woodland	0.26 ha

Ref: EN-LinearFeatures		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Linear features. See http://www.lcreconet.uk/ for further information.		
Linear feature		
Lin1	Active railway corridor	12.25 km
Lin5	Hedgerow	0.27 km

Lin7	River	0.42 km
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Ref: EN-SteppingStones		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Stepping Stone habitats. See http://www.lcreconet.uk/ for further information.		
Stepping stone habitat		
SS1	Ponds	0.08 ha

Ref: Knowsley-1996-98		
Source: Complete phase 1 habitat survey for Knowsley 1996-98.		
Survey date: 1996 - 1998		
Notes: This is the 'default' baseline mapping used by the Council. It is the most recent complete coverage for the borough.		
Woodland and scrub		
A1.1.1	Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural	0.86 ha
A1.1.2	Broadleaved woodland - plantation	0.1 ha
A2.1	Scrub - dense/continuous	0.53 ha
A2.2	Scrub - scattered	0.19 ha 37 (count)
A3.1	Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees	0.93 ha 60 (count)
Grassland and marsh		
B2.1	Neutral grassland - unimproved	1.53 ha
B6	Poor semi-improved grassland	0.63 ha
Tall herb and fern		
C3.1	Other tall herb and fern - ruderal	0.08 ha
Miscellaneous		
J1.2	Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland	5.88 ha
J2.1.2	Intact hedge - species-poor	0.26 km
J2.4	Fence	0.18 km
J4	Bare ground	0.99 ha

Habitat maps themselves are produced at the end of the report. You can cross-reference the figures in the tables below to the maps by means of the reference which appears on each map. A map with the reference 'Composite' is a special map made on-the-fly at the time of this report production by merging data from all available sources and using the most up-to-date mapping available at any given point in your search area.

Designated Areas

There are a number of types of 'designated areas' in North Merseyside. These types are shown in the table below together with the total number of North Merseyside sites for each.

Type of area	No. of sites
Site of Special Scientific Interest	6
Special Protection Area (Natura 2000)	3
Marine Special Protection Area	1
Special Area of Conservation (Natura 2000)	1

Type of area	No. of sites
RAMSAR (wetland of international importance)	3
National Nature Reserve	3
Local Nature Reserve	57
Knowsley Local Wildlife Site	65
Sefton Local Wildlife Site	55
St Helens Local Wildlife Site	117
Liverpool Local Wildlife Site	29
Merseyside Ancient Woodland Inventory	11
RSPB/LWT Windfarm Alert Map	1
Red Squirrel Protection Area	1

The following table indicates the results of the intersection between the search area and designated areas detailed above (see appendix 2 for maps).

Name	Type
River Alt and M57 Corridor	Nature Improvement Area
Huyton Lane Wetland	Knowsley Local Wildlife Site
Ten Acre Pits, Huyton	Knowsley Local Wildlife Site

Citations¹ for Local Wildlife Sites are supplied separately.

¹ In Knowsley, some Local Wildlife Site citations do not include lists of species and habitats for which they are designated and where this is the case a separate list is supplied for the site. No Local Wildlife citations are available for Liverpool Local Wildlife Sites (current or potential). No citations for LNRs are available. Citations for national and internationally designated sites (SSSI, SPA etc) are publicly available.

Interpretation and caveats

Merseyside BioBank records included

All relevant non-confidential records managed by Merseyside BioBank which intersect the search area are included in this report, except where excluded by one or more of the conditions described in the rest of this section.

NBN Atlas records included

All relevant records available to Merseyside BioBank from the NBN Atlas are included in this report, except where excluded by one or more of the conditions described in the rest of this section. NBN Atlas records are accessed live *via* web-services at the time of report generation.

Merseyside BioBank often has access to NBN records at higher resolution than the standard 'public' access. These records have been downloaded and used with the permission of the data providers, but are subject to normal NBN Atlas terms and conditions. You must not use them beyond the specific purposes for which this report was provided to you and you must adhere, at all times, to the NBN Atlas terms and conditions.

Record location and dates

If a record can only be located to a relatively low precision (e.g. 1 km or 2 km square), then it is possible that the unrecorded precise location of the animal or plant might have been outside of the search area. Sometimes the location name column can be useful in deciding whether or not this was likely to have been the case. In records from our own database, we have replaced all digits with the '#' character in the location field to people's privacy where addresses have been used as location names.

Records which are only available to us at less than 2 km square (tetrad) precision are excluded from the report. We report dates at the highest precision available to us. Records for which no date is available are excluded from the report.

Sensitive taxa

For some sensitive taxa, the precision of grid references presented here may have been reduced. We do this for:

- all records of Badger; and
- records of breeding Otter.

In addition, we do not report on 'negative records' for Badger or Otter.

Absence of records and 'negative records'

The absence of biological records for an area, or the presence of 'negative records', is not proof that taxa are not present.

Duplicate records

Although we do our very best to avoid reporting the same record more than once ('duplicate records') this is sometimes unavoidable for records that have entered the biological records network *via* more than one route. In particular, there may be some record duplication between records from Merseyside BioBank's database and records from the NBN Atlas datasets

(though, of course, we do not report on NBN Atlas records which originate from Merseyside BioBank).

Validity of records

Whilst Merseyside BioBank continually strives to verify the records that we manage, we accept no responsibility for any errors subsequently discovered. Merseyside BioBank accepts no responsibility for errors in data derived from the NBN Atlas.

Verification status of records

Records used in this report include those considered verified and those as yet unchecked. This approach is taken on balance to ensure that all potential risks that we are aware of have been flagged.

Bird records

Only bird records with a recorded status of proven, probable and possible breeding have been included in this data search. Bird records with other statuses are not included. The most recent bird records for North Merseyside included, e.g. those generated for the ongoing breeding and wintering atlas projects, since these data have yet to undergo verification by the County Bird Recorder. It is possible for you to contact the County Bird Recorder independently for his interpretation of the most recent data with respect to your search area. The contact details are:

Steve White
stevewhite102@btinternet.com

Please note that if this is a commercial data request you will be invoiced by **Sefton Borough Council**, which is the hosting authority for Merseyside BioBank.

Appendix 1: Terms and conditions of use

Merseyside BioBank receives data from a variety of sources, from large organisations to amateur naturalists. With Merseyside BioBank operating as custodians, these individuals and groups, who provide their records free of charge, retain copyright on their data.

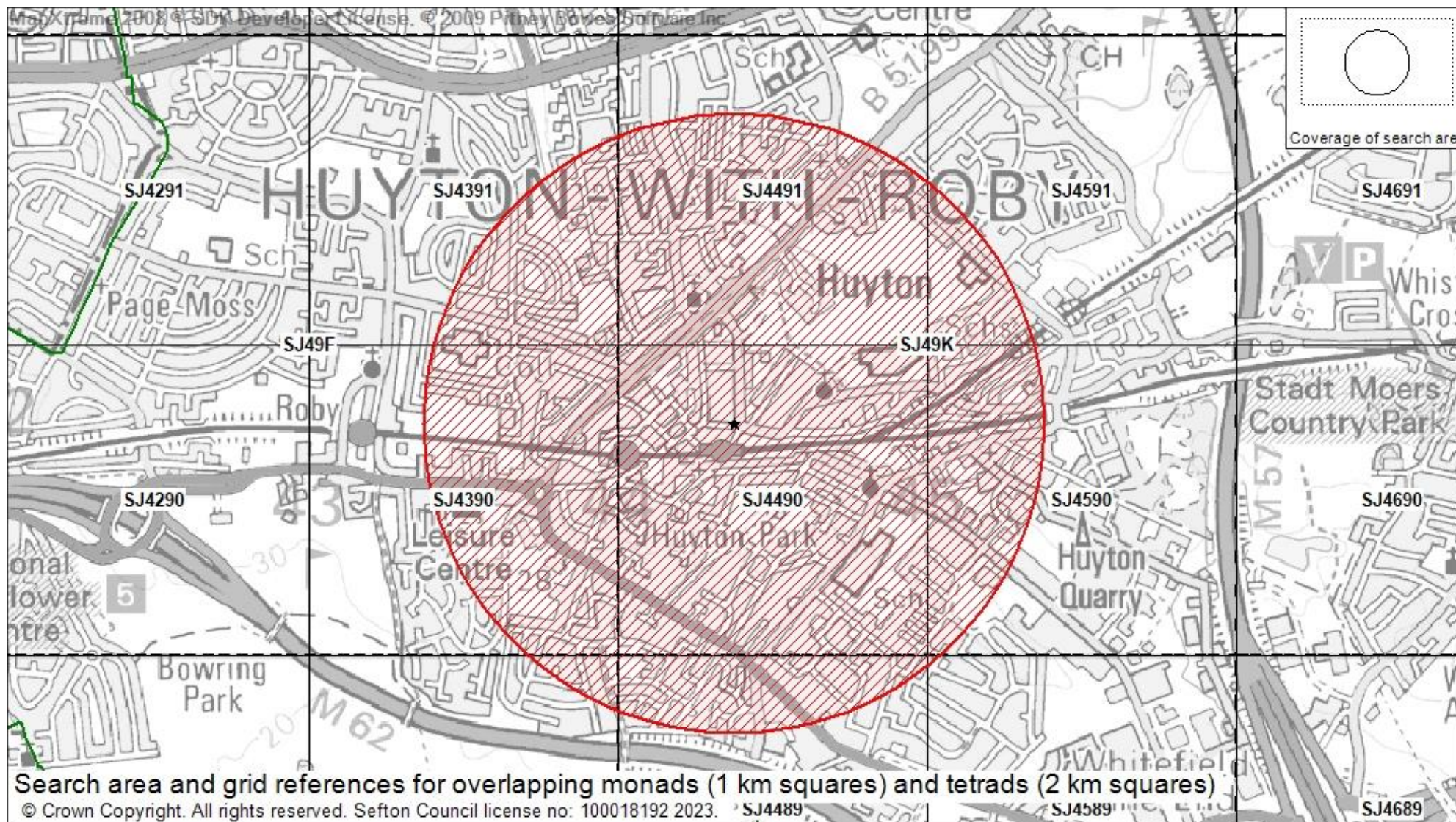
All data passed to a third party (users) by Merseyside BioBank are subject to these access terms and conditions. Non-adherence to these terms and conditions will be viewed as a breach of contract, which may result in legal redress being sought.

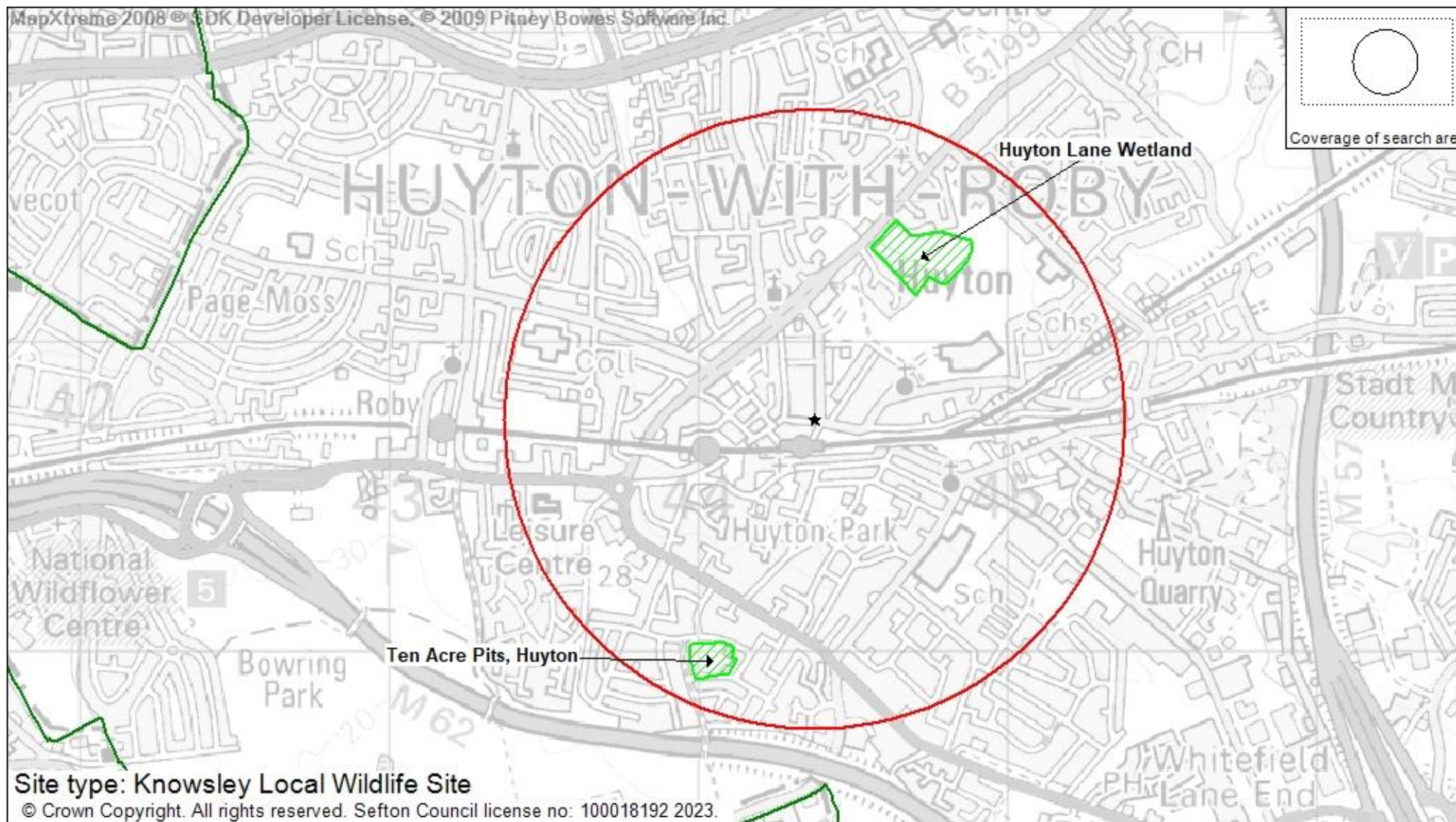
1. Users agree that data released by Merseyside BioBank, in any format and on any media, will only be used for the purpose for which it was originally requested and for any time period originally agreed upon (See note 3 below).
2. Users agree that data released by Merseyside BioBank will not be added to any permanent database system (electronic or paper based) unless by written agreement with Merseyside BioBank.
3. Users understand that following the end of the agreed time period, or 12 months from the enquiry date, the received data must be deleted from any electronic system (See note 2 above). Use of the data beyond this period must be preceded by a further request to Merseyside BioBank.
4. Users agree that data retrieved from Merseyside BioBank will not be passed on to or communicated with third parties except as aggregated data within reports, or as anonymised data in the form of maps etc., which constitute a part of the agreed reason for the original enquiry.
5. Merseyside BioBank disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy of the information within its reports and accepts no liability for any result of using these data.
6. Any biological record is specific to the date of the recording and does not necessarily imply the continuance of the species at that site.
7. The lack of species and/or habitat information for a geographically defined area does not necessarily imply a low biodiversity value for that area. It may simply be unrecorded.
8. While the information from Merseyside BioBank in itself will remain free, Merseyside BioBank reserves the right to charge a reasonable fee to cover administration and a proportion of overheads as detailed in our charging policy.
9. A copy of any report, or other product, produced using the data from Merseyside BioBank would be gratefully received if provided without cost.
10. Merseyside BioBank must be acknowledged within any report, or other product produced, using data provided by Merseyside BioBank.

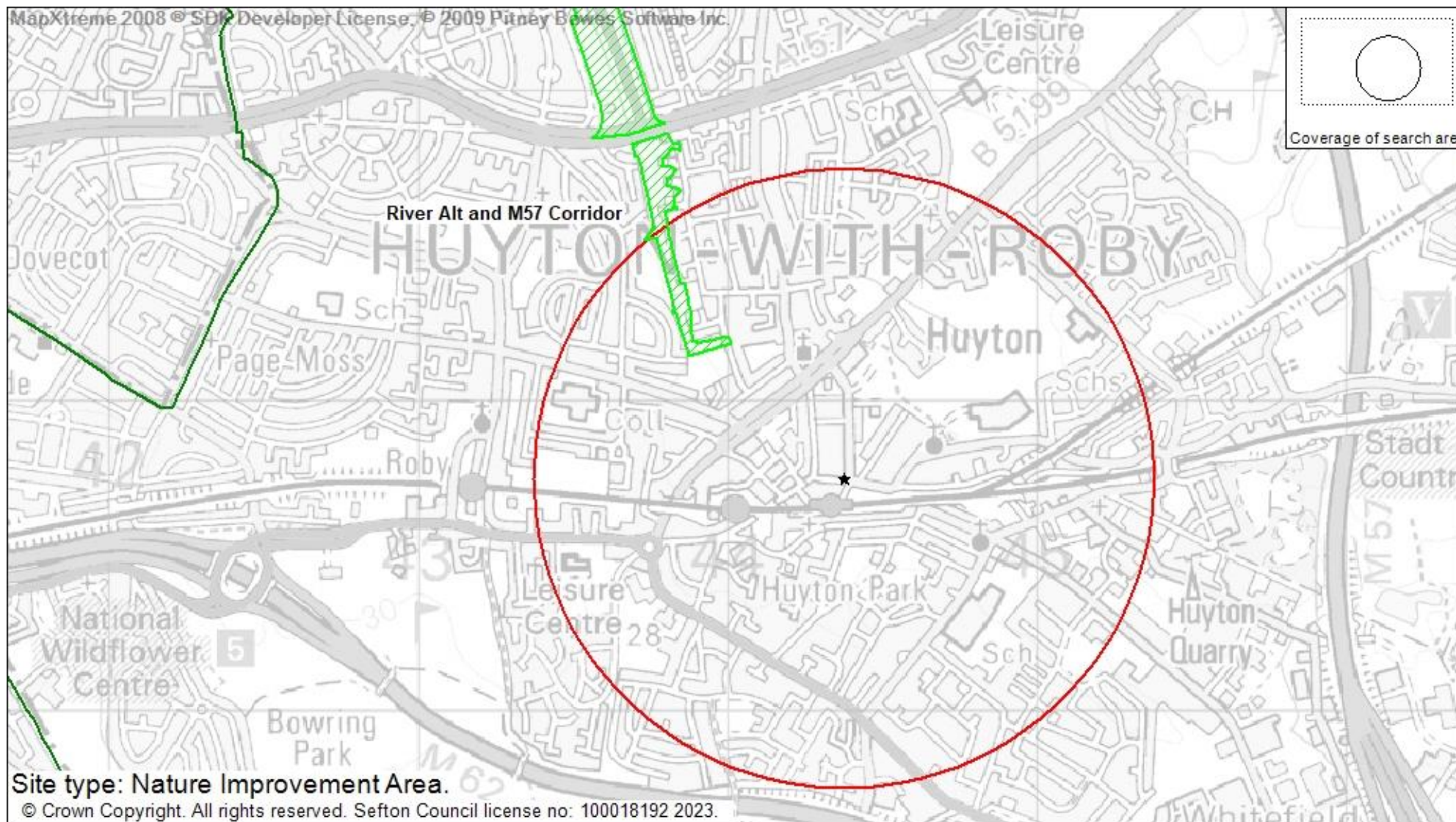
Appendix 2: Maps

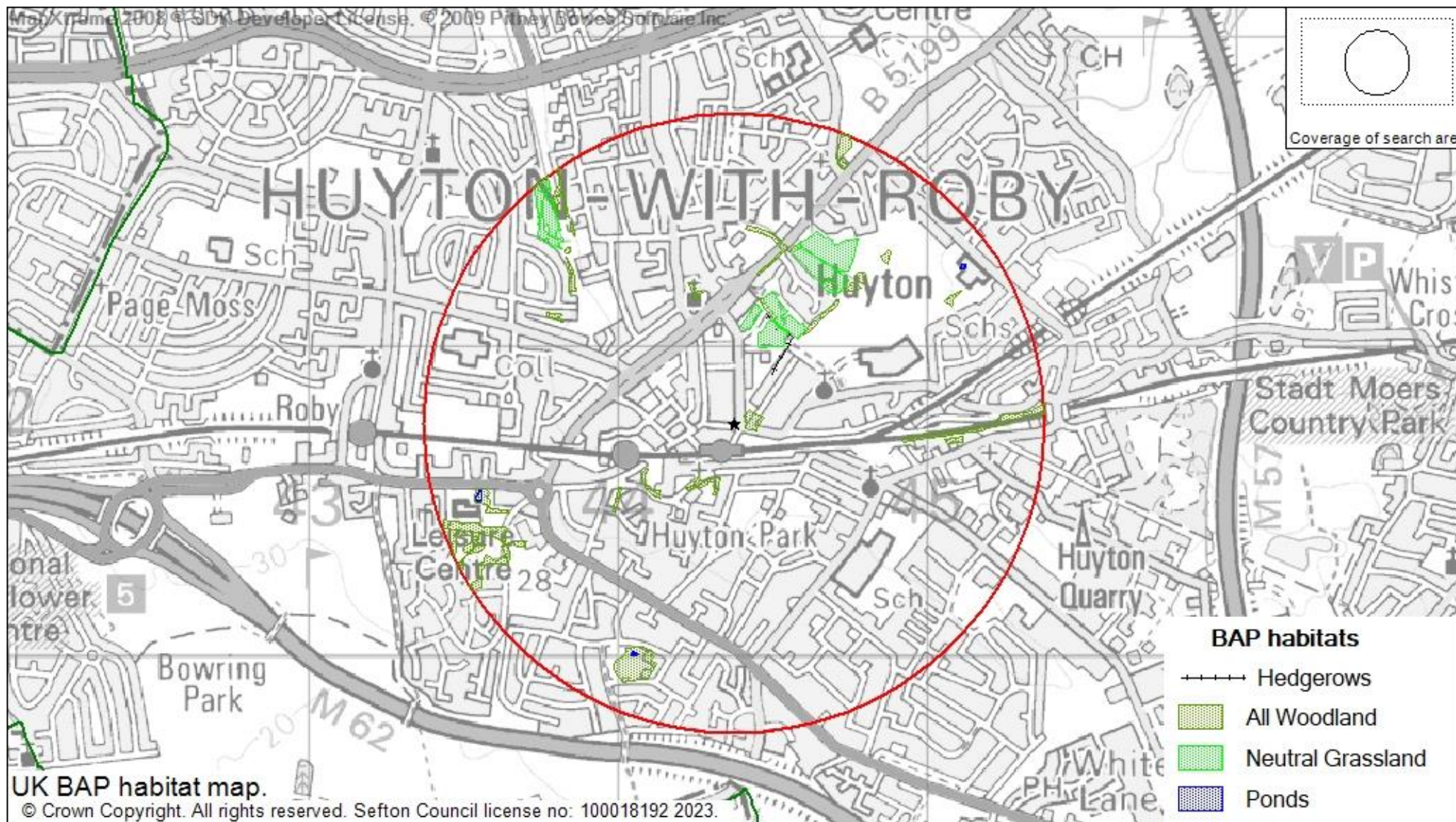
The following page(s) include maps to illustrate some of the results of your data request. They should be viewed in the context of the results supplied in the main body of the report.

The Ordnance Survey mapping included in the maps provided by Merseyside BioBank under Sefton Council's licence from Ordnance Survey. These maps are provided to assist decision-makers in the effective and sustainable management of land, species and habitats. Ordnance Survey should be contacted directly if any of these maps are to be used in another document.



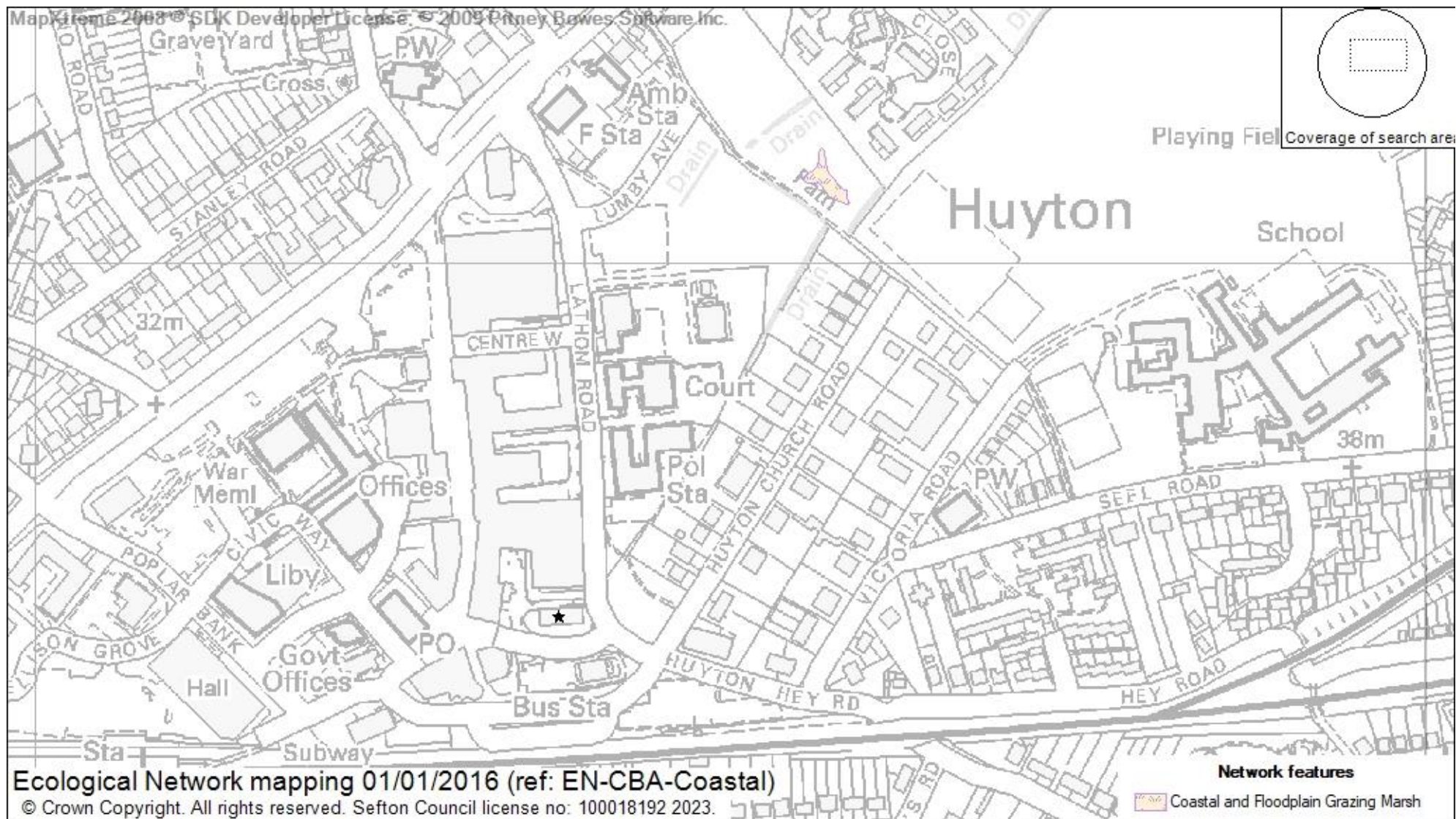


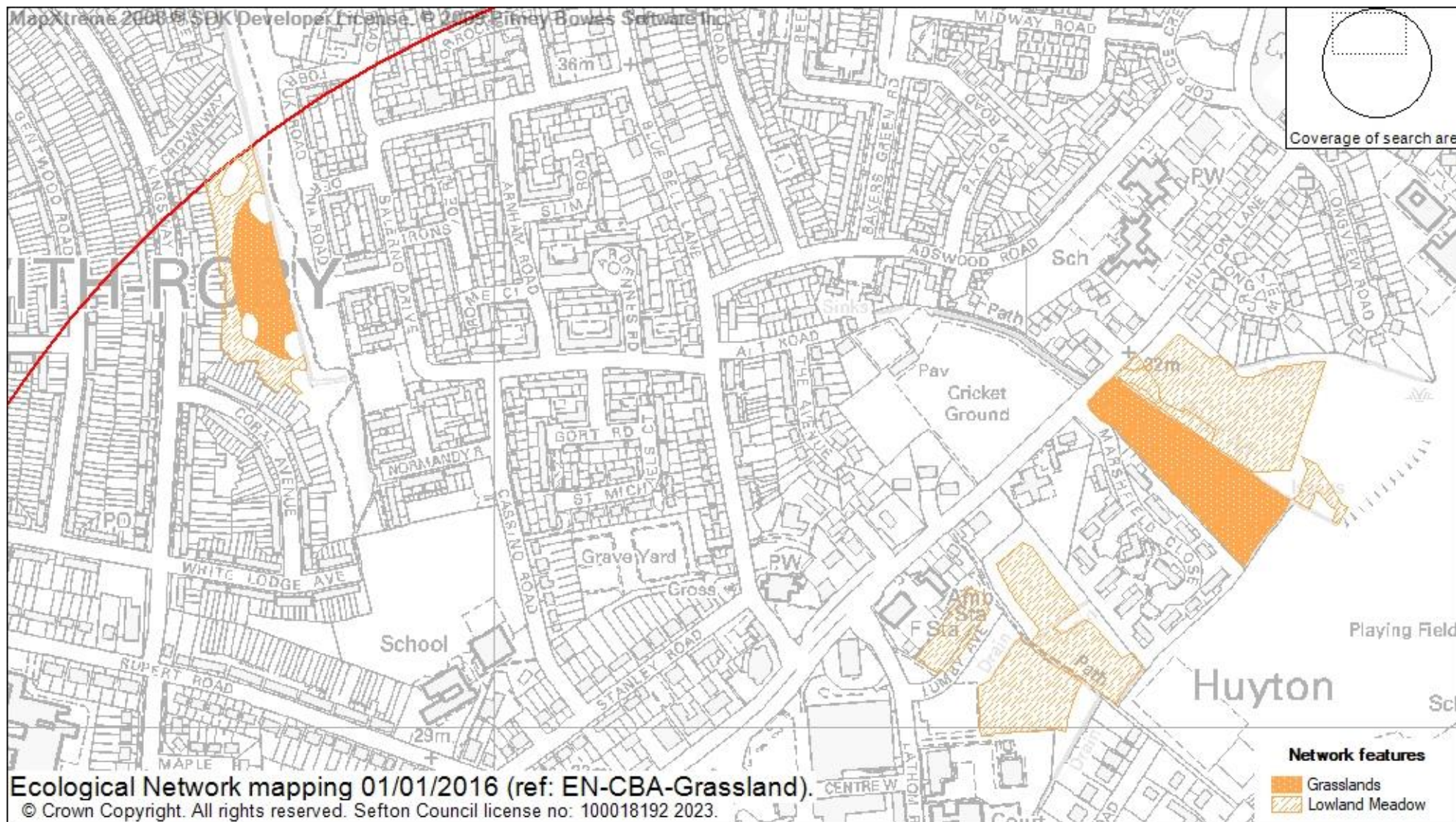


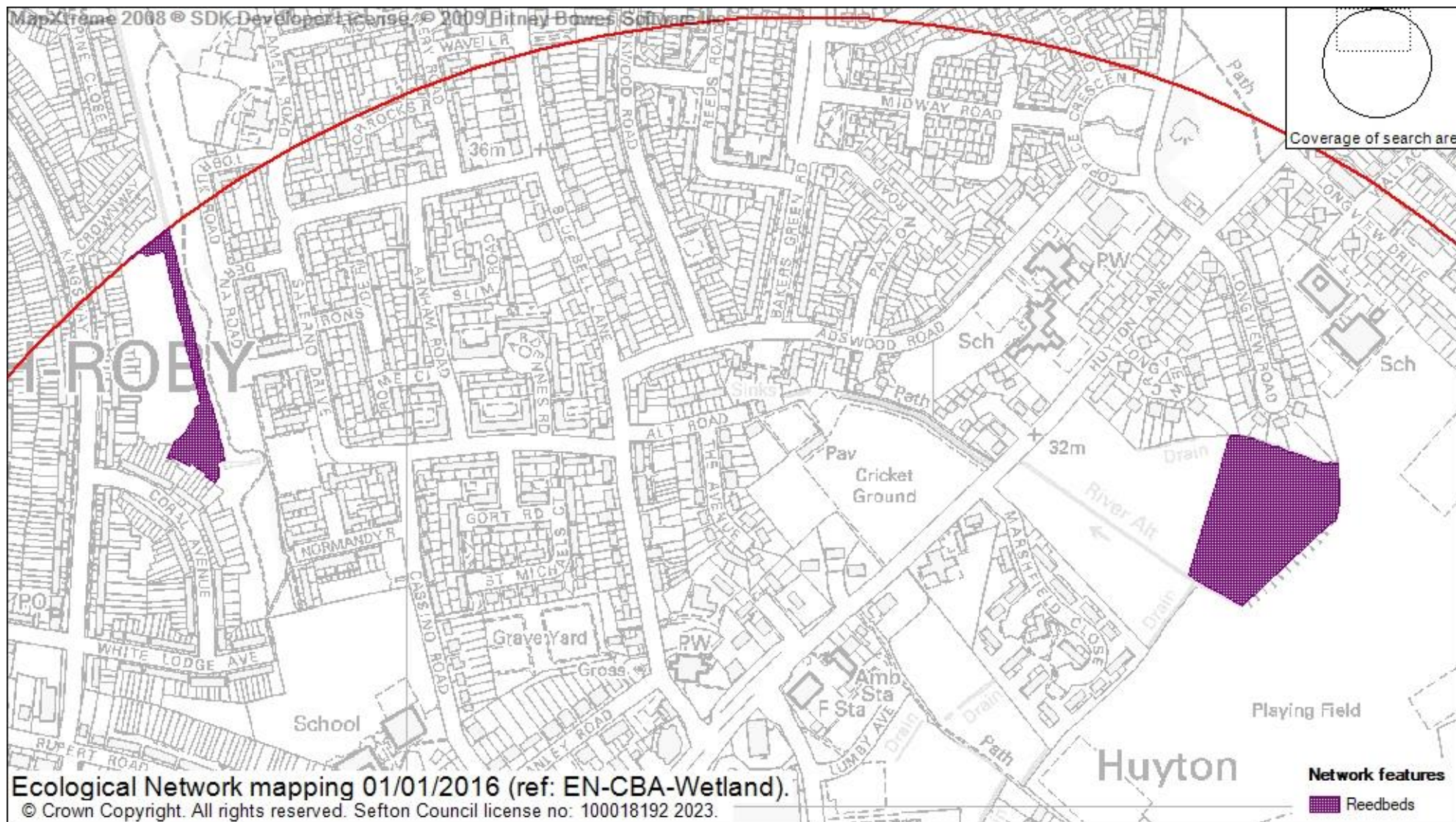


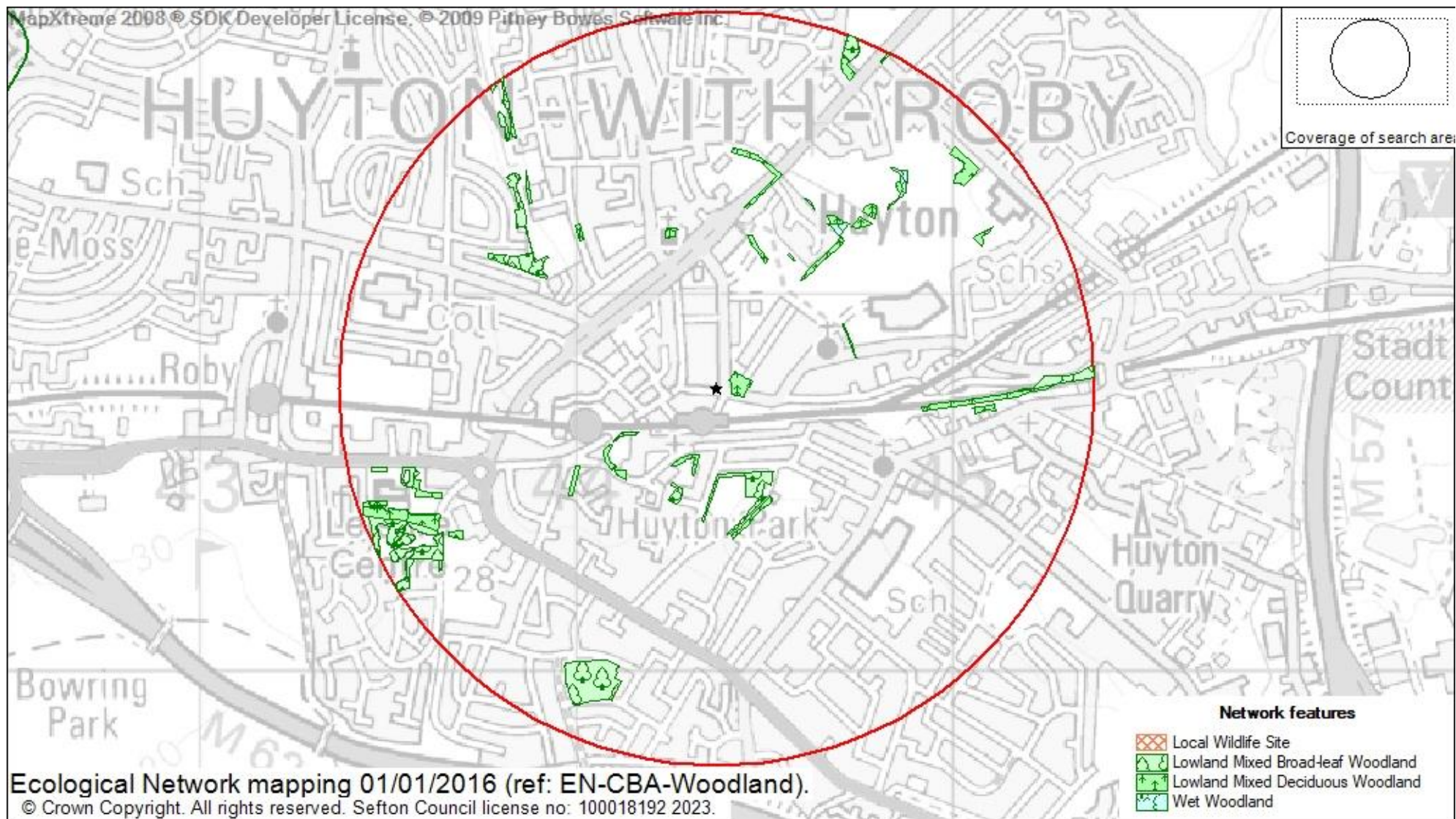
**The Local Environmental Records Centre
for North Merseyside**

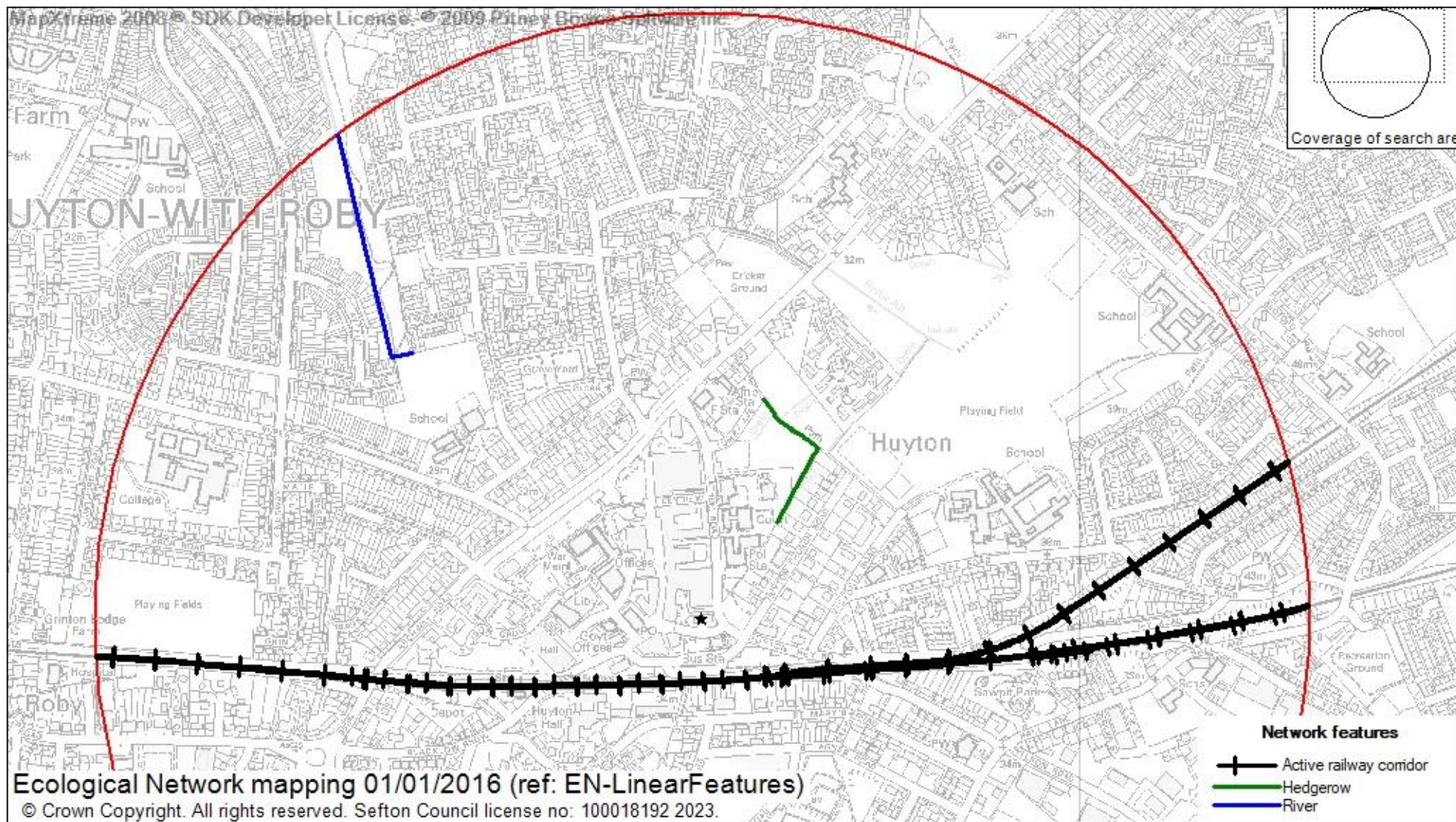
Merseyside BioBank,
Estate Barn, Court Hey Park
Roby Road, Liverpool
L16 3NA
Tel: 0151 737 4150
Info@MerseysideBiobank.org.uk

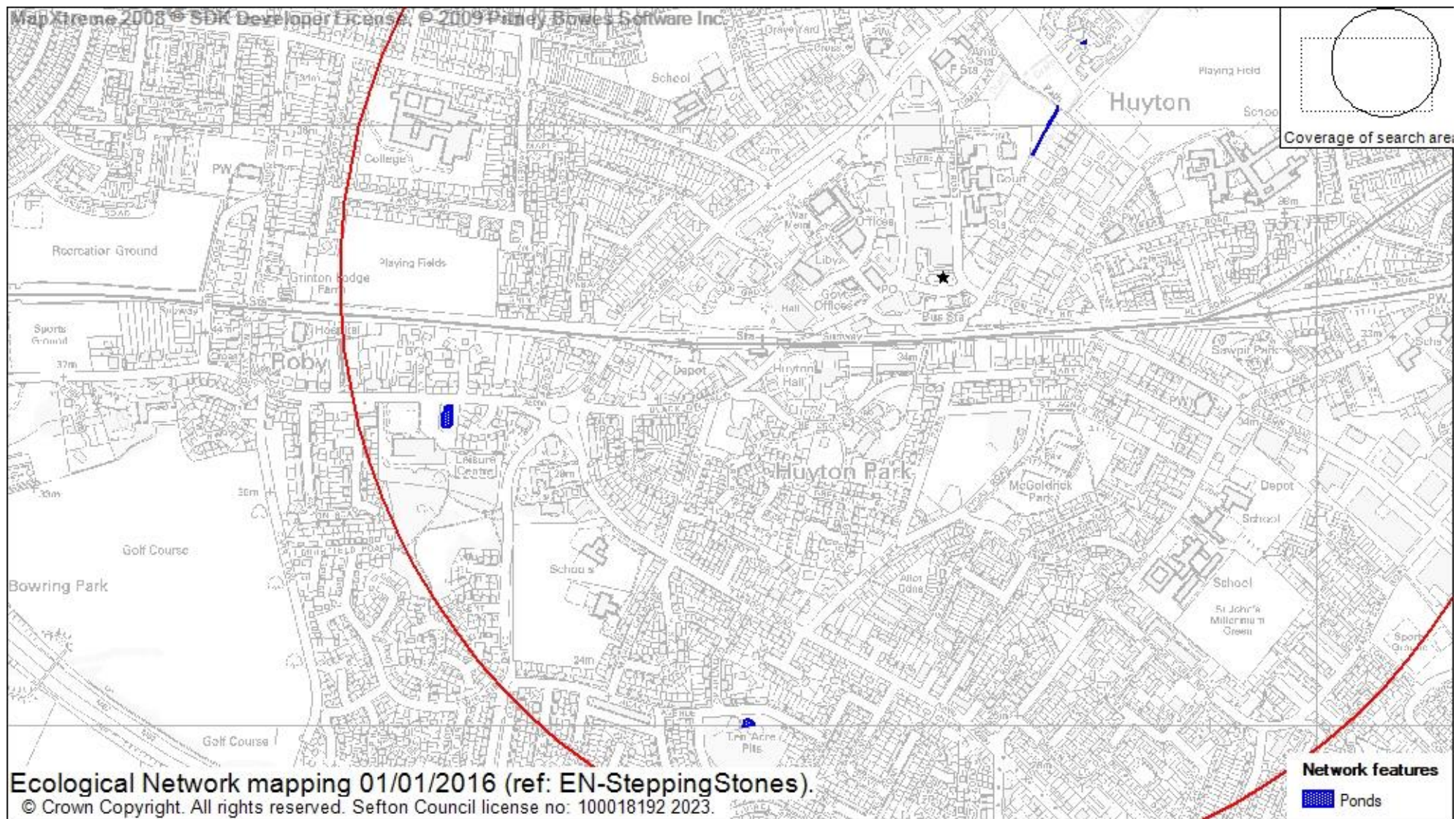


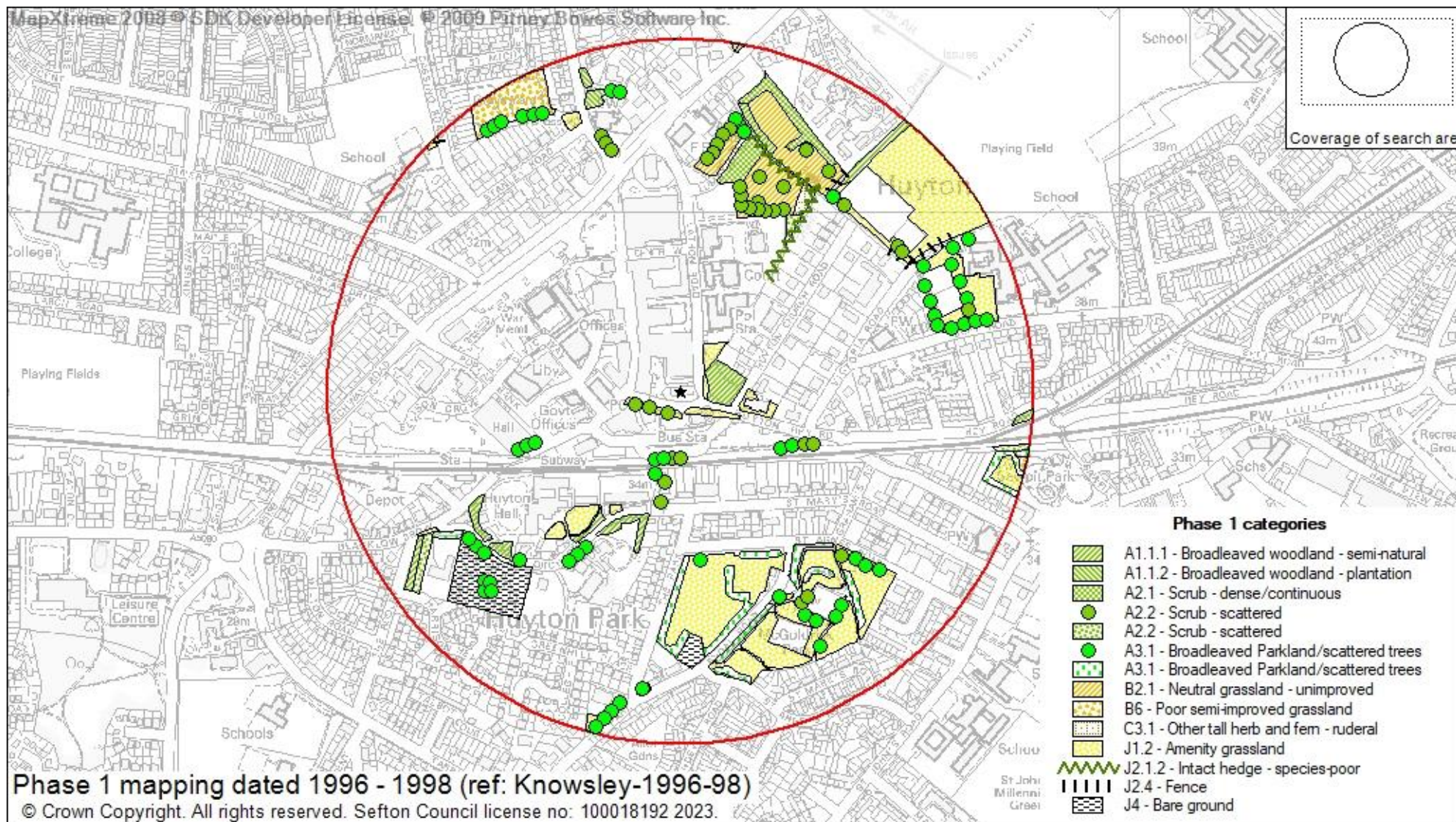






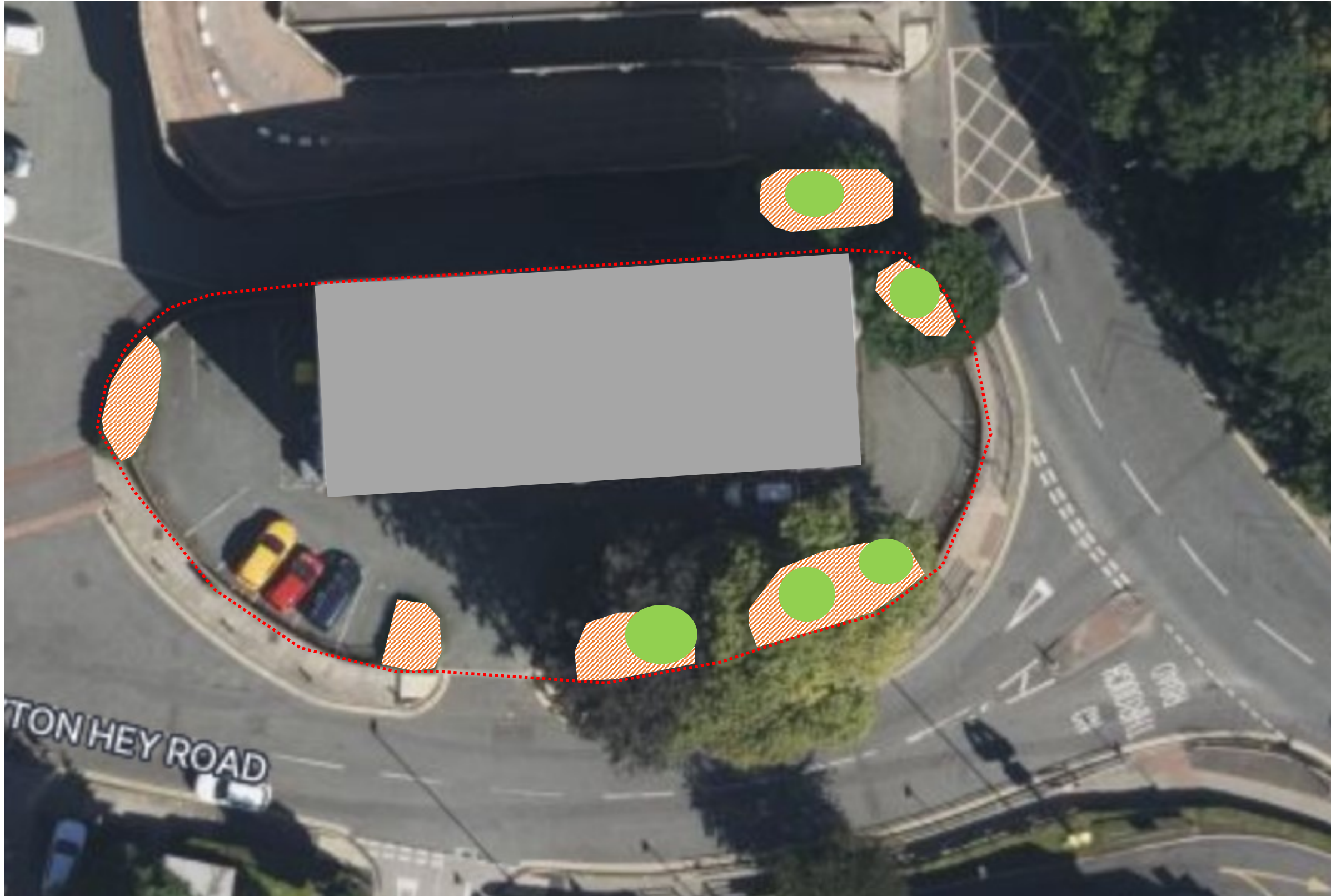






Appendix 3: Phase I Habitat Survey Plan

SEE NEXT PAGE



Phase 1 Habitat Plan

Building on Huyton Hey Road

August 2023

Client: Knowsley MBC

Key:



Hardstanding



Ornamental Shrubs



Existing Building



Site Boundary



Scattered Trees

Appendix 4: Site Photos



Southern aspect of building with mature trees and soft landscaping shrubs.



Western and northern aspect of building and adjacent multi-storey car park.



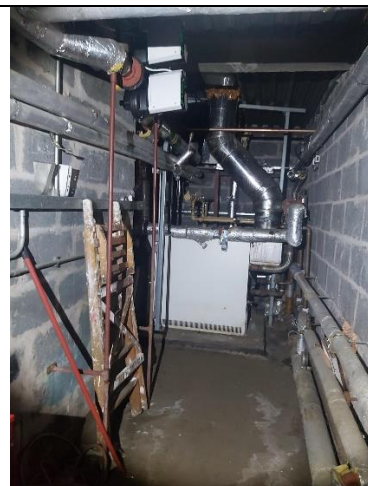
3 x mature trees to southern aspect of site.



Eastern aspect of building and small area of soft landscaping/site boundary.



Interior of office spaces



Interior of building

Appendix 5: Frame of Reference for Geographical Value

International and European value	Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas, Biosphere Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation. Sites supporting populations of internationally important species. Any regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK. i.e. it is a UK Red Data Book species or listed as occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the UK (categories 1 and 2 in the UK BAP) or of uncertain conservation status or of global conservation concern in the UK BAP. A regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.
National value	SSSIs or non-designated Sites meeting SSSI selection criteria, NNRs, Marine Nature Reserves, NCR Grade 1 Sites. Sites containing viable areas of key habitats identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species which is threatened or rare in the region or county (see local BAP). A regularly occurring, regionally or county significant population/number of any nationally important species.
Regional value	Sites containing viable areas of threatened habitats listed in a Regional BAP (or some Natural Areas), comfortably exceeding SINC criteria, but not exceeding SSSI criteria. Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species listed as being nationally scarce which occurs in 16-100 10km squares in the UK or in a Regional BAP or relevant Natural Area on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a regionally important species.
County / Metropolitan	Sites meeting the criteria for county or metropolitan designation (SINC, CWS, etc.). Ancient semi-natural woodland, LNRs or viable areas of key habitat types listed in county BAPs/Natural Areas.

	Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a County/Metropolitan “red data book” or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a County/Metropolitan important species.
Local	Undesignated Sites or features considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource in the District or Borough or within a zone of influence. A population of a species that is listed in a District/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation; A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a District / Borough important species during a critical phase of its life cycle.