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www.pennineecological.co.uk

28th August 2026

Director
RS UK Associates Ltd

Dear Robert,

Re Ecological Walkover Survey for the Vacant Land At Alchemy Way, Knowsley Industrial Park, Kirkby, Knowsley, Planning Application No. 23/00456/FUL.

Pennine Ecological were commissioned in July 2026 to undertake an ecological walkover as part of addressing Condition 15 of the application which stated as follows;

15. Prior to the commencement of development hereby permitted a site walkover survey shall be undertaken and the findings of which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The survey shall determine whether habitats on site, the suitability of the site for protected and priority species and the presence of invasive species have materially changed since the Preliminary Ecology Assessment was originally undertaken in May 2022. The recommendations of the survey shall include additional mitigation measures if required which shall be implemented in accordance with a timetable to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the preliminary ecology assessment is updated given the passage of time since the original survey, transient nature of species and to assess the impacts resulting from the development and any necessary mitigation measures and to ensure compliance with Policy CS8 in the Knowsley Local Plan, Core Strategy, adopted January 2016 and Paragraph 180 in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Results from the walkover survey which was conducted the 10th August 2026 are provided below along with site photographs from the day of survey.

Habitats

In the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) conducted by Rachel Hacking Ecology (2022) the site was found to comprise *semi-improved grassland, marshy grassland, amenity grassland, tall ruderal herb, continuous scrub and ephemeral vegetation with scattered trees and scattered scrub*. Pennine Ecological during the 2026 survey recorded the habitats to be largely the same albeit there had been some succession that had taken place but overall, there wasn't a significant change in the habitats to an extent that a revision of the 2022 habitat map is required.

The ephemeral pools which are shown in the 2022 PEA report were dry during 2026. However, the most recent followed a prolonged period of warm and dry weather so it is likely they will be present during winter months or following periods of heavy rainfall. Furthermore, the marshy grassland in the southern section of the site was also found to be dry with no standing water recorded.

The extent of the scrub in 2026 reflected that of the PEA conducted in 2022.

The scattered trees on site were immature and again their extent reflected that of the survey 2022 survey results. No trees on site comprised any features that would support bats, although they would serve as potential nesting habitat for breeding birds.

The presence of Japanese knotweed was also confirmed present in 2026, but its distribution had not significantly changed to that recorded in 2022.

Species

The site was fully accessible during the 2026 survey with all boundaries being surveyed.

Badger – no setts or field signs were recorded so the species is considered to be absent. No further recommendations in addition those in the Rachel Hacking PEA report (2022).

Bats – no trees or buildings were recorded on site that could support bats. No further surveys required.

Amphibians – no waterbodies recorded on site. No further surveys required.

Birds – suitable habitat recorded on site for breeding. No further recommendations in addition those in the Rachel Hacking PEA report (2022).

END OF MEMO
