



LFC Academy, Liverpool

Preliminary Ecological Assessment

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TEP
401 Faraday Street
Birchwood Park
Warrington
WA3 6GA
Tel: 01925 844004
Email: tep@tep.uk.com
Offices in Warrington, Market Harborough, Gateshead, London and Cornwall

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The conclusions and recommendations contained in this document are based upon information gathered by TEP and provided by third parties. Information provided by third parties and referred to herein has not been independently verified by TEP, unless otherwise expressly stated in the document.

Nothing in this report constitutes legal opinion. If legal opinion is required, the advice of a qualified legal professional should be secured.

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Executive Summary

Site Details	The Site (central grid reference: SJ 42373 98504) is within the administrative area of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, surrounded by commercial developments to the east and residential development to the west. The A5208 is to the south of the site. To the north of the site is more training fields, part of the LFC academy but outside the site boundary. The site is currently used as a major sporting training ground (Figure 1).
Proposals	The proposed development is for major upgrades to the current training ground, with new buildings being created to provide indoor links to different sections of the site (Appendix A).
Designated Wildlife Sites	There are no sites within the National Sites Network located within 10km of the site. There are no SSSIs within 5km of the site. There is one Local Nature Reserve within 2km of the site. There are 10 non-statutory local wildlife sites within 2km of the site.
Recommendations	All buildings and trees within the site are deemed negligible for bat roost suitability so no further surveys in regards to this are required. A Sensitive Lighting Strategy should be implemented to avoid adverse impacts on bats and maintain dark corridors. This is of particular relevance to construction during the autumn and spring when bats are active, and when working hours fall within an hour of dusk or dawn and artificial lighting is required. It is recommended that bat boxes are erected upon new buildings or trees to provide additional opportunities to roosting bats within the site. A nesting bird check would be required 48 hours prior to any hedgerow or building alterations. A precautionary working method statement should be adopted to minimise the risk or harm of injury to hedgehogs. Works likely to cause disturbance during hedgehog hibernation, for example removal of hibernation habitats such as scrub and woodland, should not take place during November to March.

	Precautionary working measures should be adopted to minimise the risk of harm or injury to reptiles during vegetation clearance and construction works. Measures should be outlined within a protected/priority species Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) to ensure no harm or injury to amphibians, if present on site.
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This Executive Summary is not a substitute for the full report. Refer to the full text of this report for further detail.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) was commissioned by LFC Academy in August 2025 to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) for a site called LFC Academy in Liverpool (hereafter referred to as 'the site')
- 1.2 An Ecological Desk Study has been produced to support this PEA, reported under separate cover (TEP Ref: 11306.001). This PEA report should read in conjunction with the Desk Study.
- 1.3 This PEA report includes details of the methods employed and any limitations of the surveys undertaken. Results are provided with supporting maps, together with an evaluation of the ecological features within the site, an assessment of the potential impacts associated with the development proposals and requirements for mitigation. The assessment has been undertaken with due consideration for current best practice guidelines (CIEEM 2017a¹, 2018²).

Site Location

- 1.4 The site (central grid reference: SJ 42373 98504) is within the administrative area of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, surrounded by commercial developments to the east and residential development to the west. The A5208 is to the south of the site. To the north of the site is more training fields, part of the LFC academy but outside the site boundary. The site is currently used as a major sporting training ground (Figure 1).

¹ CIEEM (2017a) Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management

² CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

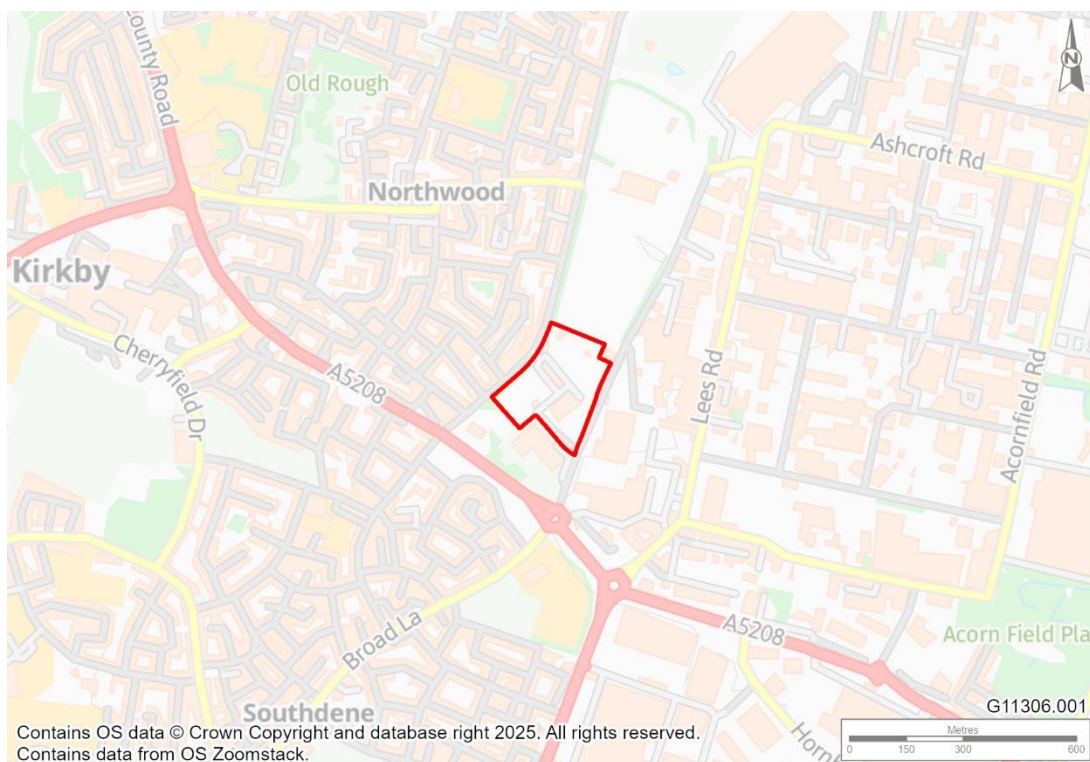


Figure 1: Site Location Figure

Proposals

- 1.5 The proposed development is for major upgrades to the current training ground, with new buildings being created to provide indoor links to different sections of the site (Appendix A).

Planning Context

- 1.6 Relevant information regarding local planning policy is provided in the Ecological Desk Study (TEP Ref 11306.001).
- 1.7 The following policies within the Knowsley Local Plan are of relevance to ecology and biodiversity:
- Policy C52 - Development Principles
 - Policy CS8 - Green Infrastructure
 - Policy CS19 - Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development
 - Policy CS21 - Greenspaces and Trees
 - Policy CS23 - Renewable and Low Carbon Infrastructure
 - Policy CS24 - Managing Flood Risk

- 1.8 Under the National Planning Policy Framework 2024³ (NPPF), opportunities to achieve biodiversity net gain within developments should be pursued.

³ National Planning Policy Framework (2024). Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. National Planning Policy Framework (publishing.service.gov.uk)

2.0 Methods

Desk Study

- 2.1 In line with current best practice (CIEEM, 2016⁴, 2017b⁵), information regarding designated sites, notable habitats and existing protected and notable species records of the past decade, within a 2km minimum radius of the site was collated and reviewed to inform this ecological assessment. Further detail regarding ecological zones of influence (EZOI) applied for different ecological features and the sources of information included are presented in the Ecological Desk Study (TEP Ref 9331.003).
- 2.2 In brief, key data sources included Natural England (open source data), Environment Agency (open source data); Knowsley Council Local Plan, Merseyside BioBank Records Centre and Northern Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and a review of relevant (within the past ten years) species records.
- 2.3 Statutory designated wildlife sites were searched for as follows (EZOI applied for each is indicated in brackets):
- Ramsar sites (10km);
 - National Sites Network (10km), includes Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA);
 - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (5km);
 - National Nature Reserve (NNR) (5km); and
 - Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) (5km);
 - Local Nature Reserves (LNR) (2km).
- 2.4 Non-statutory designated wildlife sites were searched for within 1km of the Scheme and, within Devon, these may include:
- County Wildlife Sites (CWS);
 - Potential County Wildlife Sites (pCWS);
 - Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites (UWS); and
 - Other Sites of Wildlife Interest (OSWI).
- 2.5 Notable habitats were searched for within 2km of the site. Notable habitats may include those listed under any of the following:

⁴ CIEEM (2016) Guidelines for Accessing and Using Biodiversity Data. Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management

⁵ CIEEM (2017b) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management

- Ancient woodland;
- Main rivers;
- Habitats of principal importance (HPI) as listed by the requirements of Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006⁶; and
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats (LBAP).

2.6 Pre-existing records for notable species were reviewed from the combined data sources, where found from within approximately 2km of the site. Notable species include those listed under any of the following:

- Protected animal species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (EPS);
- Protected bird species under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA1);
- Protected animal species under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA5);
- Protected plant species under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA8);
- Invasive non-native plant species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA9);
- Invasive non-native species under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 (IAS);
- Species of principal importance (SPI) as listed by the requirements of S41 of NERC;
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (PBA);
- Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BRd/BAm); and
- Northern Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan Species (BAP).

Limitations

2.7 Species records can provide a useful indication of the species present within the search area, although the absence of a given species from the dataset cannot be taken to represent actual absence.

⁶ Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

Habitats and Flora

Habitat Survey

- 2.8 An UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) survey was completed on the 26th of August 2025 by a competent TEP ecologist. The survey was carried out in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) assessment method and Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017b). The method records the habitat types present, within the survey route, based on the UKHab descriptions. Plant species were identified in accordance with the New Flora of the British Isles (Stace, 2019) and recorded as target notes using the DAFOR⁷ scale, where relevant.
- 2.9 The survey was expanded to include off-site habitats adjacent to the site in order to provide context. Adjacent habitats were viewed from accessible locations within the site boundary. Habitats are displayed with the site boundary on Drawing G11306.002.

Limitations

- 2.10 Any ecological survey represents a snapshot of ecological conditions at the time of survey; ecological conditions may change over time. Efforts to identify dominant plant species for the purposes of characterising broad habitat types do not constitute a detailed botanical survey.

Fauna

- 2.11 Ordnance Survey maps and aerials were reviewed to identify potentially suitable habitats offsite within influence (e.g. dispersal distances for mobile species) of the site. The Ecological Desk Study identified any pre-existing records for protected and notable species within 2km of the site.
- 2.12 The habitat survey included an extended assessment of the habitats present for their potential to support notable or protected wildlife species, as described at paragraph 3.6. Any signs indicating the presence of these species were recorded.
- 2.13 In combination, this data informed the ecological evaluation of the site and impact assessment for the proposed development.

Preliminary Roost Assessment - Structures

- 2.14 A daytime Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of structures within the site, was carried out on 13 buildings on 26th August 2025 by a qualified ecologist and health and safety assistant.

⁷ Dominant Abundant Frequent Occasional Rare

- 2.15 Following the PRA, structures were categorised with reference to their bat roost habitat suitability (high, moderate, low, negligible or none) as determined by their location, characteristics and potential roost features (PRFs).

Survey Constraints

- 2.16 The PRA was undertaken during suitable weather conditions and therefore there was no significant constraint to the external inspections. Poor light conditions can cause PRFs to be missed, wind can blow away external signs e.g., droppings and rain can wash away droppings and make staining around roost entrances difficult to distinguish.
- 2.17 Evidence of potential bat roost presence such as urine splashes, fur-oil staining, scratch marks, odour, bat-fly Nycteribiid species pupal cases and feeding remains cannot be relied upon in isolation for confirmation of bat roosting. Bats can also leave no visible sign of their presence, particularly where there are hidden voids or crevices. Overall suitability of PRFs and surrounding habitats was therefore assessed during the PRA, rather than relying on signs of roosting to ensure proportional further surveys were undertaken to confirm presence/ likely absence of bat roosts within structures.
- 2.18 Internal access to structures was not possible due to current training taking place. This constraint was overcome as where possibility of hidden/ inaccessible voids or crevices was identified during the PRA, a precautionary approach to further surveys was undertaken to confirm presence/ likely absence of bat roosts within structures.

Limitations

- 2.19 All surveys were completed within appropriate seasons over appropriate periods in accordance with industry standards for the specific survey. Nevertheless, the surveys will only identify habitats present within the site at the time of surveys. Additionally, the species investigated are mobile and will move into and out of areas over time. For these reasons a precautionary approach has been taken in the prediction of impacts. Where there is any doubt, except where specifically noted, species are assumed to be present, and the impact assessment assumes a higher level of significance (within the spectrum of possible significance).

Preliminary Roost Assessment - Trees

- 2.20 A Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) of trees within and immediately adjacent to the site was carried out on 26th August 2025 by a qualified ecologist and health and safety assistant.

- 2.21 Following the GLTA, trees were categorised with reference to their bat roost habitat suitability (PRF-M, PRF-I or None) as determined by their characteristics and potential roost features (PRFs).

Survey Constraints

- 2.22 The GLTA was undertaken during suitable weather conditions and therefore there was no significant constraint to the survey. Poor light conditions can cause PRFs to be missed, wind can blow away external signs e.g., droppings and rain can wash away droppings and make staining around roost entrances difficult to distinguish.
- 2.23 Optimal conditions for identifying tree PRFs are when trees are not in leaf. The recommended survey window for GLTA is between December and March (inclusive). As the GLTA was carried out in August, this is considered a sub-optimal season for survey. Poor light and dense foliage (including ivy *Hedera helix* cover) can cause PRFs to be missed from ground level vantage points.
- 2.24 Periods of rain were also experienced during the GLTA. Rain can reduce apparent suitability of PRFs, as staining from bat roosts can be less obvious and damp bark colouration can affect visibility. Due to the immaturity of the trees, this was not considered a constraint to the survey.
- 2.25 There were no constraints affecting the GLTA surveys.

Ecological Assessment Process

- 2.26 This PEA follows the published guidelines (CIEEM, 2018) and accepted best practice approach (BS42020:2013⁸) of the mitigation hierarchy whereby impacts are first avoided or, where this is not possible, reduced or mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated.
- 2.27 In summary, the following procedure was undertaken during this PEA:
- Describe the baseline and identify important ecological features;
 - Describe important ecological features and identify those which may potentially be affected by the site;
 - Identify potential impacts upon important ecological;
 - Identify further survey work, if required to undertake an impact assessment;
 - Incorporate measures to avoid or reduce these effects;
 - Identify appropriate compensation measures to offset significant residual effects; and

⁸ British Standards Institution (2013) BS 42020:2013: Biodiversity — Code of practice for planning and development. BSI Standards Limited, London

- Identify opportunities for ecological enhancement.
- 2.28 BS42020:2013 defines a significant effect as one “which is important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to its context”. CIEEM describes significance as “a concept related to the weight that should be attached to effects when decisions are made”. CIEEM defines an ecological effect as significant if it is “sufficiently important to require assessment and reporting so that the decision maker is adequately informed of the environmental consequences of permitting a project”.

Assumptions

- 2.29 Information provided by third parties, including publicly available information, is assumed to be correct at the time of publication.

3.0 Results

Planning Context

- 3.1 The NPPF at Chapter 15: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment requires that development delivers net gains in biodiversity in addition to minimising the impacts on biodiversity. The chapter highlights the need to protect and enhance valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils, as well as recognising the wider benefits of ecosystems.

Wildlife Sites

National Sites Network

- 3.2 There are no sites within the National Sites Network located within 10km of the Site.

Other Statutory Wildlife Sites

- 3.3 There are no SSSIs within the National Sites Network located within 5km and one Local Nature Reserve, Acornfield Plantation of local importance within 2km.
- 3.4 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) highlight the potential for effects on a SSSI if certain types of development are planned within a specified radius of it. The site falls within three IRZ. The proposals do not meet any of the risk parameters identified for this IRZ.

Local Wildlife Sites

- 3.5 There are 10 non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites identified within 2km of the site. These are:
- Kirkby Brook, Northwood, (0.27ha) - 0.6km north – open water course providing a good habitat for water voles;
 - Otis Meadow, (2.56ha) - 1.0km south - A mix of damp and dry grassland with developing scrub;
 - Acornfield Plantation, (11.62ha) - 1.1km east - Predominantly a mature/over-mature broadleaf woodland of birch, oak and sycamore with a unique basin mire which provides habitat for breeding dragon and damselflies. Other habitats include ponds, stream, drainage channels, acidic and neutral grasslands, bracken and rhododendron thickets;

- Northwood Forest Hills, (10.36ha) - 1.1km north - An area of former industrial and residential land which has since developed to include a pond and a swamp with locally rare plant species. Unimproved Neutral grassland covers large areas of the site and this is species rich;
- Charley Wood, (7.7ha) - 1.2km east - A woodland dominated by broadleaf trees on acid peat soils. There is much variation in tree and shrub cover with large glades apparent. Rhododendron has been planted and is thriving. Invertebrate interest is high;
- Meadow, Kirkby (Mill) Brook of Old Hall Lane, (0.19ha) - 1.3km west - A meadow with a wet flush on the banks of Kirkby Brook. Sandstone exposures on the banks add to the diversity;
- Kirkby Brook, (2.05ha) - 1.3km west - An open watercourse providing good water vole habitat;
- Kraft Operational Land, (2.73ha) - 1.4km south - A wetland with good species diversity. Drier areas of grassland add to the interest of the site;
- Kirkby Brook, including Mill Brook, (3.63ha) - 1.7km northwest - Stream course and banks rich in plants with exposures of sandstone in places and wet flushes; and
- Knowsley Brook, (2.77ha) - 1.7km south - An open water course providing good habitat for water voles.

Habitats and Flora

Pre-existing Data

- 3.6 The Desk Study did not identify any notable habitats on, adjacent to or connected with the site.
- 3.7 Flora records returned within 2km of the site are as follows:
- Protected and notable species: Bluebell (WCA8) and Cornflower (S41);
 - Non-native invasive species^{9, 10}: Himalayan Balsam (WCA9), Himalayan Cotoneaster (WCA9), Japanese Knotweed (WCA9) and Rhododendron ponticum (WCA9).
- 3.8 Habitats of ecological value present in and around the Site are described below and illustrated in Drawing G11306.002. Target notes (TN) and photographs illustrative of the habitats described are provided in Annex B.

⁹ As listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended

¹⁰ Statutory Instruments 2019 No. 527 The Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019

Urban

Buildings (u1b5)

- 3.9 There were thirteen buildings in total within the site boundary. The full descriptions of the buildings can be found in Table 1.
- 3.10 Buildings B3 & B4 and B12 are small, open, spectator stands with fabric marquee style retractable roofs.
- 3.11 Buildings B1, B2 and B9 are larger multi-level structures made up of breeze block bases and sheet metal uppers, with corrugated metal roofs.
- 3.12 Buildings B5, B6, B7, B8 and B13 are all single level smaller breeze block built buildings with flat bitumen style roofs.
- 3.13 Buildings B10 and B11 were metal built structures used for pumping water.

Urban - Developed land sealed surface (u1b)

- 3.14 There is a large, tarmacked area in the south of the site which compromises a large car park and associated roads and infrastructure.

Urban - Built up areas and gardens (u1)

- 3.15 There are two large areas where sports training takes place, one to the northwest being astro turf with hardstanding spectator areas and one to the southwest of the site being a turfed sports pitch.



Figure 2: One of the training pitches

Grasslands

Other neutral grassland (g3c)

- 3.16 There is one small area in the north of the site which is a planted wildflower meadow which has been created to introduce pollinators and enhance biodiversity across the LFC estate. Species include poppy *Papaver sp*, corn marigold *Glebionis segetum*, cornflower *Centaurea cyanus*, ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and red campion *Silene dioica*.

Modified grassland (g4)

- 3.17 Modified grassland areas are scattered throughout the site. Species include hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, pineapple weed *Matricaria discoidea*, daisy *Bellis perennis* and greater plantain *Plantago major*.



Figure 3: Modified grassland

Individual Trees

- 3.18 There were 31 trees across the north of the site, all immature saplings. Species included Birch trees *Betula spp*, pine species *Pinus spp* and apple trees *Malus domestica*.

Hedgerows

Non-native and ornamental hedgerow

- 3.19 There are three areas of non-native ornamental hedgerows in the east of the site, mainly consisting of cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*.

Habitat Connectivity

- 3.20 Due to the limited scale of habitats present on the site and the land use of the wider area, there is very little connectivity to suitable habitat for most species, especially terrestrial species.

- 3.21 The wider area consists of built up residential and commercial development, with main roads connecting throughout.

Fauna

- 3.22 The potential for the site to support legally protected and notable species has been assessed using the results of the desk study and observations made during the survey of habitats within and immediately surrounding the site. Based on these observations, the habitats present within the site were assessed for their suitability for the following species:

- Bats;
- Nesting Birds;
- Hedgehog; and
- Amphibians.

Bats

- 3.23 The desk study identified the following non-roost bat records within 2km of the site:

- Bat Sp.;
- Common Pipistrelle;
- Daubenton's bat;
- Myotis Bat Species;
- Noctule;
- Pipistrelle species; and
- Soprano Pipistrelle.

Preliminary Roost Assessment of Buildings

- 3.24 The preliminary roost assessment identified all thirteen buildings within the site boundary as having negligible suitability for bats.
- 3.25 A daytime Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of all structures within the site boundary was carried out on the 26th of August 2025 by a bat licenced ecologist and health and safety assistant.
- 3.26 There are thirteen built structures present on site overall (TEP Drawing Ref: G11306.003). A description of the buildings and the categorisation within the site boundary can be found in table 1.

Table 1: Roost Assessment of Built Structures

Building Ref	Description	Photo	Categorisation of Potential Bat Roost Habitat Suitability
B1	Building B1 is a multi storey main reception building in the middle of the site. The first level is breeze blocks and render with the upper level being mainly metal with large windows. The roof is corrugated sheet metal.		Negligible
B2	Building B2 is a one level indoor training pitch with changing and physio rooms. The ceiling is high and airy, with the roof being corrugated metal sheeting. Breeze block base with metal cladding walls.		Negligible

Building Ref	Description	Photo	Categorisation of Potential Bat Roost Habitat Suitability
B3	Building B3 is an open spectator structure made of metal with a marquee style roof. There are no sides.		Negligible
B4	Building B4 is a smaller two-level spectator structure made of metal cladding with a fabric, marquee style roof.	No Image	Negligible
B5	Building B5 is a brick built substation with flat bitumen roof.		Negligible
B6	Building B6 is a open bin structure made of wood panelling.	Same as above	Negligible
B7	Building B7 is a breeze block built storage room with flat bitumen roof. Two well sealed wooden doors are the only entry points and it is well lit.		Negligible

Building Ref	Description	Photo	Categorisation of Potential Bat Roost Habitat Suitability
B8	Building B8 is a breeze block built electrical/plant room with flat bitumen roof.		Negligible
B9	Building B9 is a multi-level family/boot room, consisting of a brick built first level and a metal clad top level.		Negligible
B10	Building B10 is a metal water storage container used to water the training pitches.	No photos could be taken of this due to children present.	Negligible
B11	Building B11 is a breeze block-built water pumping station associated with B10.	No photos could be taken of this due to children present.	Negligible
B12	Building B12 is a small spectator stand made from metal with a marquee style roof.	No photos could be taken of this due to children present.	Negligible

Building Ref	Description	Photo	Categorisation of Potential Bat Roost Habitat Suitability
B13	Building B13 is two security hub buildings breeze block built with large windows.	No images	Negligible

Preliminary Roost Assessment of Trees

- 3.27 All trees on site were deemed negligible for roosting bats.

Nesting Birds

- 3.28 No records were returned of birds within 2km of the site within the last 10 years.
- 3.29 The non-native ornamental hedgerows and buildings offer good potential for nesting birds.
- 3.30 No nesting birds were noted during the survey.

Hedgehog

- 3.31 There were 24 records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* found within the desk study.
- 3.32 The hedgerows on site provide suitable sheltering, commuting and foraging habitat for hedgehog.
- 3.33 Wider connectivity to suitable hedgehog habitat is poor due to the built-up areas and associated infrastructure surrounding the site. However, this does not rule out hedgehog presence in the area or wider site.

Amphibians

- 3.34 The desk study identified three records of Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* within 2km of the site within the last 10 years. Twelve records of common frog *Rana temporaria* and 4 records of smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* were also returned.
- 3.35 No class licences or Natural England mitigation licences for great crested newts were identified within 2km of the site.
- 3.36 There are no ponds within the site boundary or within 500m of the site boundary.

- 3.37 The site itself is highly unlikely to support amphibians. There are no waterbodies present, and the extensive developed land severely limit potential for commuting, foraging, and hibernation. The lack of suitable habitat with good connectivity to the site, further reduces the likelihood of amphibian presence.

4.0 Potential Constraints

- 4.1 This section assesses the potential constraints due to ecological features associated with the site described in Section 3.0, and further surveys required to support an ecological impact assessment.

Wildlife Sites

Local Nature Reserve

- 4.2 There is one local nature reserve located within 2km of the site, Acornfield plantation (1.1km east). This is designated for its diverse woodland habitat, acid grasslands and arare lowland basin mire.

Local Wildlife Sites

- 4.3 The nearest local wildlife sites are Acornfield plantation (LNR - 1.1km east), Kirkby Brook, Northwood (0.6km north) and Otis Meadow (1km south) from the site. Given the existing use of the site and surrounding area, it is unlikely that the development will increase pressures on theses LWSs.

Habitats and Flora

Notable Habitats

- 4.4 No notable habitats were identified within 250m of the site.

Other Habitats

Trees

- 4.5 All trees within the site boundary were immature trees with no significant features. It is not thought any removal of these trees would have a negative impact on the ecological value of the site.

Notable Flora

- 4.6 No notable (WCA8) flora was identified during the habitat survey.

Invasive Flora

- 4.7 No invasive (WCA9) flora was identified during the survey.

Fauna

Bats

- 4.8 All trees within the site boundary were negligible for roosting bats.
- 4.9 The hedgerows on site offer moderate opportunities for foraging bats, but there is a lack of connectivity to the wider area.

Nesting Birds

- 4.10 Trees and hedgerow habitat could be impacted by the works, which may result in the direct loss of suitable nesting and foraging habitat and indirect disturbance of associated with the works. As such there is a risk of disturbance of any nesting birds within the site if works are to be carried out in the nesting period (generally considered to be between March to August inclusive).

Hedgehog

- 4.11 The site provides suitable commuting, foraging and hibernation habitat for hedgehog, although this is limited to the boundary habitats, most of which are being retained. There are significant barriers to movement to the wider area in the form of roads. There is potential to harm these species during site clearance and construction works, if these impact upon boundary habitats, including woodland.

Amphibians

- 4.12 Amphibians are not anticipated to be a potential constraint to the development due to the lack of waterbodies with connectivity to the site and the physical barriers to dispersal in the form of roads and existing development surrounding the site.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 It is considered that the ecological features present within the site will not prevent construction of the proposed development. However, several potential ecological constraints require further consideration so as to ensure that development does not result in an offence being committed, in respect of protected species.
- 5.2 This section describes appropriate and proportionate measures for impact avoidance, mitigation and enhancement required or recommended to address the potential ecological effects described in Section 4.0.

Wildlife Sites

Habitats and Flora

Avoidance and Mitigation Required

- 5.3 Due to the low distinctiveness and conditions of habitats within the site, none of which include habitats of principal importance, TEP advises that no further survey is required to assess the flora species present within the site.

Local Nature Reserve Sites

- 5.4 LNR are non-statutory designations made by local authorities under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

Fauna

Bats

- 5.5 All British bats are European protected species, afforded full protection under the Habitats Regulations and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Bats are protected from killing or injury, and from disturbance at the place of rest. Bat roosts are also protected from obstruction, damage or destruction (whether or not a bat is in occupation at the time).
- 5.6 No bat presence was observed within the site boundary and the buildings were all assessed as having negligible suitability for bats.
- 5.7 All of the trees within the site boundary were assessed as having negligible suitability for roosting bats.
- 5.8 As a result of these findings, no further surveys in regards to bats are required, however avoidance and mitigation measures should be instated.

- 5.9 A Sensitive Lighting Strategy should be implemented to avoid adverse impacts on bats and maintain dark corridors. This is of particular relevance to construction during the autumn and spring when bats are active, and when working hours fall within an hour of dusk or dawn and artificial lighting is required.
- 5.10 It is recommended that bat boxes are erected upon new buildings or trees to provide additional opportunities to roosting bats within the site.

Nesting Birds

- 5.11 Native nesting birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) from damage and destruction, from the time of nest construction to fledging of the young.
- 5.12 For any removal of hedgerows or trees, works should be completed outside of the nesting period (typically taken to be March to August inclusive). Where avoidance of the nesting period is not practicable, a nesting bird check must be carried out by an ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to the works, to confirm that no active nests are present. In the event that an active nest is identified, works within the surrounding area must halt until the chicks have fledged. The required radius of the exclusion area will depend on the species found nesting and the context of the nesting location.
- 5.13 A nesting bird check is recommended 48 hours prior to any hedgerow, tree or building alterations.

Hedgehog

- 5.14 Hedgehog is listed as a S41 species of principal importance (SPI).
- 5.15 Precautionary working measures should be adopted to minimise the risk of harm or injury to hedgehogs during vegetation clearance and construction works. Measures should be outlined within a protected/priority species Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) to ensure no harm or injury to hedgehogs, if present on site.
- 5.16 Work likely to cause disturbance during hedgehog hibernation, for example removal of hibernation habitats such as scrub and woodland, should not take place during November to March.

Amphibian

- 5.17 Precautionary working measures should be adopted to minimise the risk of harm or injury to reptiles during vegetation clearance and construction works. Measures

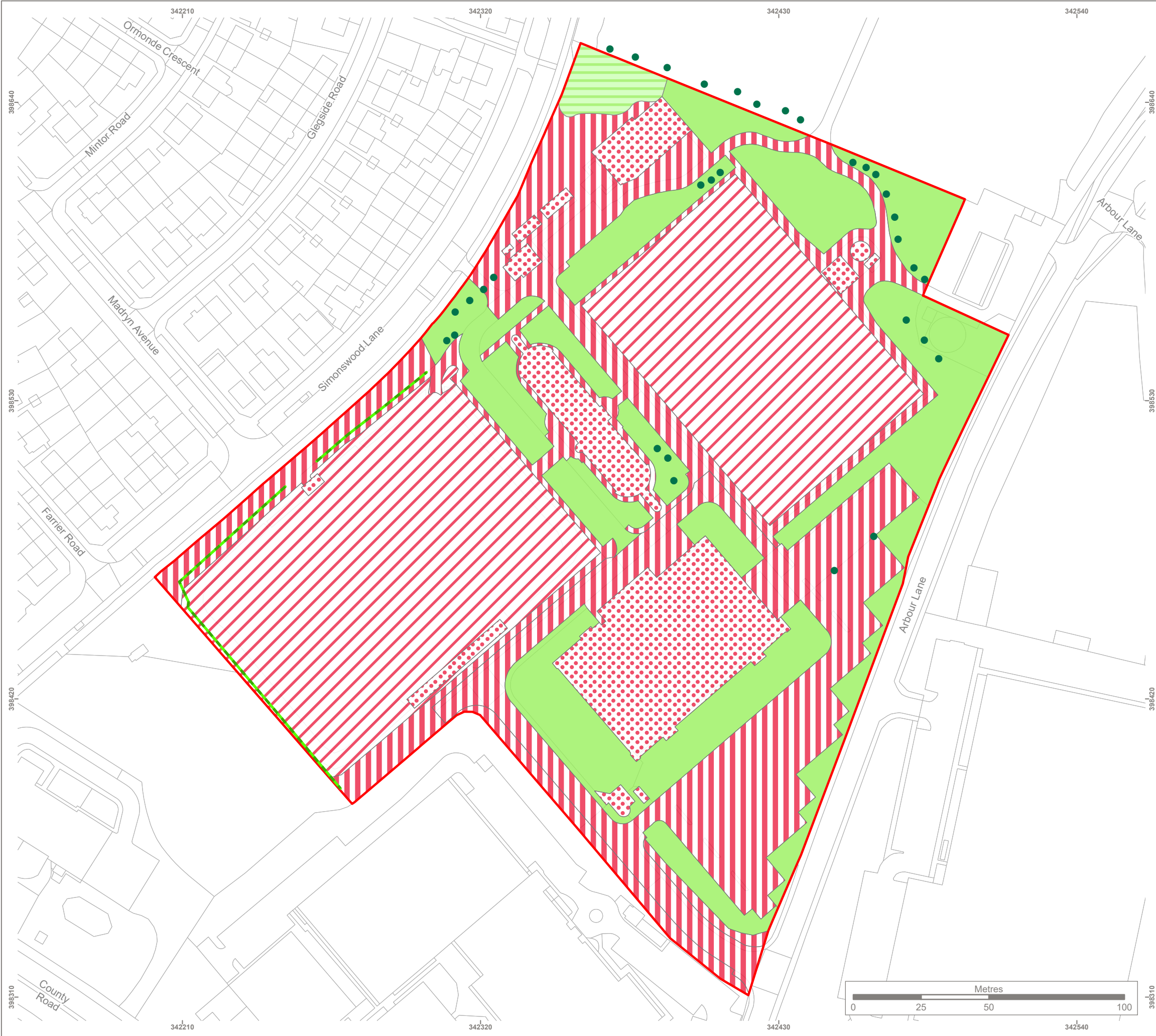
should be outlined within a protected/priority species Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) to ensure no harm or injury to amphibians, if present on site.



Drawings

Drawing 1: UK Habitat Classification Survey (Ref G11306.002)

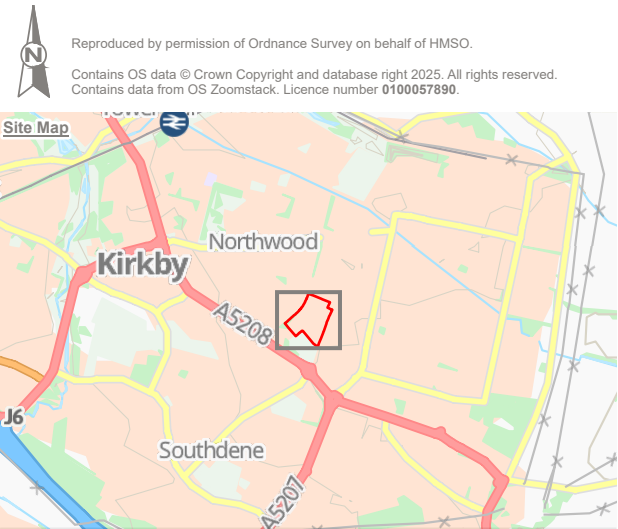
Drawing 2: Preliminary Building Bat Roost Assessment (Ref
G11306.003)



KEY

- Site boundary
- 200 Tree
- h2b Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- g3c Other neutral grassland
- g4 Modified grassland
- u1 Built-up areas and gardens
- u1b Developed land; sealed surface
- u1b5 Buildings

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

401 Faraday Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington, WA3 6GA
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Liverpool Football Club Academy

Title
UK Habitat Classification Survey

Drawing Number
G11306.002

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
SP	BJ	JC	1:1,400 @ A3	11/09/2025



KEY

-  Site boundary
- Building Assessment for Bat Roost Potential**
-  Building with negligible bat roost suitability

Note:
The locations of habitats and habitat features are indicative.

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401 Faraday Street, Birchwood Park, Warrington, WA3 6GA
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Liverpool Football Club Academy

Title
Preliminary Building Bat Roost Assessment

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Annex A: Development Proposals



Annex B: Target Notes

Target Notes

The habitat survey was undertaken in August 2025, which is in the optimal period. Many species, including protected, notable or non-native invasive species may not have been in evidence at the time of the survey. Consequently, species lists recorded represent only those species recorded at the time of survey.

KEY to DAFOR Scale of Abundance

Value	Cover	Notes
D = Dominant	>75%	Rarely used in practice
A = Abundant	51-75%	Very common in many parts of the target note area
F = Frequent	26%-50%	Several plants in several locations across target note area
O = Occasional	11-25%	Several plants in a few locations, or vice versa
R = Rare	1-10%	Small number of individuals, scattered or clustered within target note area/ site

Target Note 1

Modified Grassland

Very parched and cut very short. Mown and damaged.

Species recorded within the TN area at the time of survey included:

<i>Binomial</i>	Common	DAFOR
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial ryegrass	D
<i>Leontodon sp.</i>	Hawkbait sp.	R
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	R
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple Weed	R
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	R
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	O

Target Note 2

Natural sports pitch

Training field fence and netted on all sides. Well-lit open area.

Target Note 3

Astrotruf Pitch

Open area and well lit

Target Note 4

Small patch of introduced shrub

Binomial	Common	DAFOR
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine sp.	R
<i>Ligustrum</i>	Privet Sp.	D
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Barberry sp.	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	R

Target Note 5

Non-native ornamental hedgerow along the fence northeast to TN2 and continuous to southwest of pitch.

Binomial	Common	DAFOR
<i>Corylus</i>	Hazel	A
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry laurel	A
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	R
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	R
<i>Sambucus</i>	Elder	R
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Barberry	R

Target Note 6

Trees scattered across site

Binomial	Common	DAFOR
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple tree	R
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Birch tree sp.	O

Binomial	Common	DAFOR
<i>Pinophyta</i>	Conifer	O

Target Note 7

Allotment with raised planters on hardstanding variety of vegetables being grown.

Target Note 8

Planted section of wildflowers behind boot/recreational centre.

Binomial	Common	DAFOR
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self heal	R
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	R
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	R
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy	F
<i>Tagetes</i>	Marigold	F
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	R
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	O
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	Chamomile	R
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk mallow	R
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	O
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	R

Target Note 9

Hardstanding compacted tarmacked carpark