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Knowsley Central School, Huyton,  
L36 7SY

Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Knowsley Council

**P.2383.26**  
June 2026

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| Reference | Site                                        | Client           | Date         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| P.2383.26 | Knowsley Central School,<br>Huyton, L36 7SY | Knowsley Council | 11 June 2026 |

| Field work                    | Document author(s)                            | Technical review               | Quality & approval                                  |
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| Revision | Date         | Details                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A        | 11 June 2026 | Extension of the red line boundary and update to the landscape proposals, resulting in a revised baseline habitat assessment and updated Biodiversity Net Gain calculations. |

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| 1            | Drawing P.2383.2.E02A Baseline Habitats                                               |
| 2            | Ascerta KC Modular 30.04.26 (2) – Area Affected by Proposed Development – Scale 1:500 |
| 3            | Condition Assessment Sheets                                                           |

## Executive Summary

This report presents an assessment study of effects on biodiversity in connection with the proposed development at Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L36 7SY (hereafter referred to as the site). The site OS grid reference is SJ 44512 91832 and the What3Words reference is freed.remind.bliss.

This report calculates 'biodiversity units' using the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Statutory Biodiversity Metric, February 2024, and following the methods set out in *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024*. The units are calculated based on the area (or length), condition and distinctiveness of habitats found on the site. Pre-development and post-development biodiversity values are calculated and compared to identify any change in the biodiversity value of the site.

Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is set out in the Environment Act 2021 and applies in England and Wales as a requirement to demonstrate net gain as the result of a new development.

Based on the current development proposals, there will be a net loss of 0.02 (-0.96%) in habitat area units. This demonstrates that a net gain in biodiversity units has not been achieved, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (2016–2031).

Post-development biodiversity units with the proposed development site were calculated based on the habitats displayed on the proposed site plan drawing Ascerta KC Modular 30.04.26 (2) – Area Affected by Proposed Development – Scale 1:500, Appendix 2.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this report

Ascerta has been instructed by Knowsley Council to carry out a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) of the land at the site, see **Figure 1.1**. This assessment has been prepared to support a planning application for the site.



**Figure 1.1:** The extent of the site

## 1.2 Ecological background

The proposed development site was subject to an ecological appraisal in February 2026 (Ascerta report P.2383.26 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal).

The site comprises a building and associated areas of hardstanding, together with woodland and a small area of modified grassland currently managed as amenity grass.

BNG has been defined as ‘development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before, and an approach where developers work with local governments, wildlife groups, landowners and other stakeholders in order to support their priorities for nature conservation’ (Baker, 2016).

Good practice principles for BNG are set out within *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development*. The key principles include:

- Apply the ‘Mitigation Hierarchy’ (in line with CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment [EcIA]) and be ‘additional’ by achieving outcomes that exceed existing obligations
- Avoid losing biodiversity which cannot be offset elsewhere (e.g. irreplaceable habitats)
- Address risk (e.g. difficulty of achieving habitat creation/enhancement for net gain)
- Make a ‘measurable’ net gain contribution (e.g. calculated using an appropriate metric) and ensure that calculations are consistent and transparent (i.e. limitations and assumptions are clearly identified)
- Ensure that net gain design achieves the best outcome for biodiversity (this may require both quantitative and qualitative assessment) and create a net gain legacy for long-term benefits

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Field survey

A walkover habitat survey of the site was conducted on 03 February 2026 by David Scott MSc, undertaken in general accordance with the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit (JNCC, 2010)*. During the survey, habitat types and linear features were identified and mapped.

The recorded Phase 1 habitats were subsequently translated to UKHab Version 2.01 (UK Habitat Classification Working Group, 2023) using the Phase 1 translation tool contained within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, applying professional ecological judgement where appropriate, for the purposes of the Biodiversity Impact Assessment and BNG calculations.

Habitat and hedgerow assessments were undertaken in accordance with *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (2024)*, informed by Natural England guidance including the Farm Environment Plan Manual (3rd Edition) and published condition assessment criteria for habitats and hedgerows.

### 2.2 Biodiversity baseline methods

To calculate a biodiversity baseline, this study used *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric*, February 2024 (updated July 2025), and following the methods set out in *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024*. Habitats were identified and digitised within the QGIS application QField (QGIS Development Team, 2024). Areas were measured in hectares and linear features in kilometres. The biodiversity unit value for each habitat was then calculated by multiplying the habitat area (or length) by its distinctiveness score and then by its condition score, both described below. Using the BNG QGIS Template, the unit values for each habitat were then consolidated within the QGIS import tool and imported into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Version 4 to produce the biodiversity baseline for the site. Linear habitats were assessed with the same methodology, yet separately to areas.

### 2.3 Habitat distinctiveness

Habitats identified are entered into DEFRA's Statutory Biodiversity Metric which then assigns a pre-determined distinctiveness value. Habitat distinctiveness is a collective measure of biodiversity and includes parameters such as species-richness, diversity, rarity, and the degree to which a habitat supports species rarely found in other habitats.

### 2.4 Habitat condition

Condition of the habitats present has been assessed during the site visit using *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024*. The post-development biodiversity units were calculated using information from the proposed site plan drawing Ascerta KC Modular 30.04.26 (2) – Area Affected by Proposed Development – Scale 1:500, Appendix 2. To calculate the post-development biodiversity units, the habitat areas are multiplied by the distinctiveness and condition values and then divided by a multiplier based on the difficulty of creating the proposed habitat and the time needed to achieve the proposed condition. The BBUs were then subtracted from the post-development units to determine any change in biodiversity value of the site as a result of the proposed development. The target condition of the habitats is based on guidance set out within *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024* which may require ecological input.

## 2.5 Habitat strategic significance

The site is located within Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, which falls within the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority area. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has not yet been formally published for this area at the time of assessment. Strategic significance has therefore been assigned in accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

*'Where a Local Nature Recovery Strategy has not yet been published, you should use the specified alternative documents, and the descriptions set out in **Table 2.1**, to assign strategic significance. When there are no alternative suitable documents for assigning high strategic significance, medium strategic significance can be assigned when the criteria in **Table 2.1** are met. "A relevant planning authority should specify alternative documents for assigning strategic significance whilst an LNRS is put in place. (Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide DEFRA, 2025)'*

**Table 2.1 Strategic significance categories where a LNRS has not yet been published (DEFRA, 2025)**

| Category                                                                  | Score | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>High</b> (Formally identified in local strategy)                       | 1.15  | <p>The habitat type is mapped and described as locally ecologically important within a specific location, within documents specified by the relevant planning authority.</p> <p>If your project delivers the mapped habitat creation or enhancement actions set out within specified alternative documents, or enhances an existing habitat identified within specified alternative documents as locally ecologically important, strategic significance can be recorded as <b>high</b> in the post-intervention sheets.</p> <p>If the specified alternative documents identify existing habitat as locally ecologically important within a specified location, strategic significance may be recorded as <b>high</b> in the baseline.</p> <p>You should record the name of the plan the relevant planning authority has specified in the user comments and record that you have used the specified document in your gain plan.</p> |
| <b>Medium</b> (Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy) | 1.10  | <p>This category can be applied when the LPA has not identified a suitable document for assessing strategic significance. Users should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain how the habitat type is ecologically important within a specific location</li> <li>• demonstrate the importance of that habitat in providing ecological linkage to other strategically significant locations</li> <li>• use professional judgement.</li> </ul> <p>When the above criteria are met, strategic significance may be recorded as <b>medium</b> in the baseline and post-intervention sheets.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Low</b> (Area/compensation not in local strategy)                      | 1.00  | Where the definitions for high or medium strategic significance are not met.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### 2.5.1 Local Policy

The Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan sets out the local policy context and evidence sources used to inform the assignment of habitat strategic significance.

Following the guidance set out within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (DEFRA, 2025) the below documents within **Table 2.2** were assessed to assign habitat strategic significance.

**Table 2.2: Guidance utilised to assign habitat strategic significance**

| Document / source                                                                                  | Purpose / notes                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council – Adopted Local Plan                                         | Sets out local planning policy relating to biodiversity, green infrastructure, and protection of existing ecological assets within Knowsley Borough.                      |
| Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (in preparation)  | Knowsley sits within the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority area; the LNRS will inform strategic significance once published.                                       |
| Merseyside Biodiversity Group (2008) North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat Action Plan | Identifies habitat priorities within North Merseyside and provides a local evidence base for assigning strategic significance, including urban habitats where applicable. |

## 2.6 Trading summary

‘Trading Up’ is a concept which requires ‘conserving through offset components of biodiversity that are of a higher conservation priority (for example, because they are more irreplaceable and vulnerable) than those affected by the development project for which the offset is envisaged’ (BBOP, 2018). For example, should non-irreplaceable habitats be lost/impacted as a result of the proposed development, offsets should be achieved through the creation/enhancement of habitat of the same or higher distinctiveness, where environmental conditions are appropriate and where it generates the greatest benefits for biodiversity.

## 2.7 Information and data used to inform the BNG calculation

The following information was used to inform the Biodiversity Unit Calculations. GIS layers and survey data of:

- Drawing P.2383.26.E02A Baseline Habitats, Appendix 1
- Drawing Ascerta KC Modular 30.04.26 (2) – Area Affected by Proposed Development – Scale 1:500, Appendix 2
- Condition Assessment Sheets, Appendix 3

## 2.8 Limitations

This BNG report only addresses impacts on habitats within the site. Other ecological impacts, such as those related to protected species, are not covered by this report. The BNG calculations are based on a field survey of habitats and their condition at the time of survey, and the subsequent mapping of these habitat parcels and linear features in QGIS/QField. Habitat areas and linear features have been calculated in GIS and are not rounded, for precision.

The Phase One Habitat Survey of the site was undertaken within February 2026, which falls outside the recommended survey period for identifying botanic species (March to October inclusive). However, some plant species may have been missed and a complete species list for the site may not have been gained.

The calculations within this report are based on the proposed site plan drawing Ascerta KC Modular 30.04.26 (2) – Area Affected by Proposed Development – Scale 1:500, and **Tables 4.1** and **Table 4.2** within Section 4.

### 3. Biodiversity Baseline

#### 3.1 Biodiversity baseline for area habitats on-site

The baseline area habitats, drawing P.2383.26.E02A Baseline Habitats, Appendix 1, includes three types within the development area. Following the methods set out in *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide 2024*, biodiversity scores have been calculated and assessed and are displayed in **Table 3.1** below.

**Table 3.1: Baseline: Habitat areas biodiversity calculation**

| Existing area habitats              |                                |                       |                 | Distinctiveness             |       | Condition   |       | BBU  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|------|
| Broad habitat                       | Habitat type                   | Irreplaceable habitat | Area (hectares) |                             |       |             |       |      |
|                                     |                                |                       |                 | Distinctiveness             | Score | Condition   | Score |      |
| Urban                               | Developed land; sealed surface | No                    | 0.047           | V. low                      | 0     | N/A – Other | 0     | 0.00 |
| Urban                               | Developed land; sealed surface | No                    | 0.051           | V. low                      | 0     | N/A – Other | 0     | 0.00 |
| Grassland                           | Modified grassland             | No                    | 0.001           | Low                         | 2     | Poor        | 1     | 0.02 |
| Woodland and forest                 | Other woodland; broadleaved    | No                    | 0.008           | Medium                      | 4     | Moderate    | 2     | 0.06 |
| Urban                               | Developed land; sealed surface | No                    | 0.646           | V. low                      | 0     | N/A – Other | 0     | 0.00 |
| Grassland                           | Modified grassland             | No                    | 0.137           | Low                         | 2     | Poor        | 1     | 0.27 |
| Individual trees                    | Urban tree                     | No                    | 0.0651          | Medium                      | 4     | Moderate    | 2     | 0.52 |
| Individual trees                    | Urban tree                     | No                    | 0.1303          | Medium                      | 4     | Moderate    | 2     | 1.04 |
| Individual trees                    | Urban tree                     | No                    | 0.0204          | Medium                      | 4     | Moderate    | 2     | 0.16 |
| Total habitat Areas ha (exc. trees) |                                |                       | 0.90            | Biodiversity baseline units |       |             |       | 2.08 |

Developed land (sealed surface) comprises the majority of the site (0.744ha; 0.00 BBU), alongside modified grassland (0.138ha; 0.29 BBU), broadleaved woodland (0.008ha; 0.06 BBU), and urban trees represented by T1–T4, G1 and G2 (1.72 BBU).

Overall, the baseline habitat area is 0.90ha (excluding trees), equating to 2.08 biodiversity units. Urban trees contribute the majority of the ecological value on-site (1.72 BBU), followed by modified grassland (0.29 BBU) and broadleaved woodland (0.06 BBU). Please refer to drawing P.2383.26.E02A Baseline Habitats, Appendix 1, and Table 3.1 above.

## 4. Impacts on Biodiversity

### 4.1 Post-development biodiversity value of the proposed development site

Drawing *Ascerta KC Modular 30.04.26 (2) – Area Affected by Proposed Development – Scale 1:500*, Appendix 2, identifies the habitats to be retained and created as part of the proposed development. Habitats to be retained comprise developed land (sealed surface), modified grassland, individual urban trees (T1–T4) and urban tree groups (G1 and G2), together with a small area of broadleaved woodland. Habitat area and feature distinctiveness and condition scores have been calculated and assessed and are displayed in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 below.

**Table 4.1: Post-development: Habitat areas retained biodiversity calculation**

| Broad habitat                       | Proposed habitat               | Area (hectares) | Distinctiveness                    |       | Condition   |       | RBU         |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
|                                     |                                |                 | Distinctiveness                    | Score | Condition   | Score |             |
| Urban                               | Developed land; sealed surface | 0.051           | V. Low                             | 0     | N/A - Other | 0     | 0.00        |
| Woodland and forest                 | Other woodland; broadleaved    | 0.008           | Medium                             | 4     | Moderate    | 2     | 0.06        |
| Urban                               | Developed land; sealed surface | 0.646           | V. Low                             | 0     | N/A - Other | 0     | 0.00        |
| Grassland                           | Modified grassland             | 0.137           | Low                                | 2     | Poor        | 1     | 0.27        |
| Individual trees                    | Urban tree                     | 0.0651          | Medium                             | 4     | Moderate    | 2     | 0.52        |
| Individual trees                    | Urban tree                     | 0.1303          | Medium                             | 4     | Moderate    | 2     | 1.04        |
| Individual trees                    | Urban tree                     | 0.0204          | Medium                             | 4     | Moderate    | 2     | 0.16        |
| <b>Total habitat areas retained</b> |                                | <b>0.81</b>     | <b>Retained biodiversity units</b> |       |             |       | <b>2.06</b> |

The habitats to be retained on-site comprise developed land (sealed surface) (0.697ha; 0.00 RBU), modified grassland (0.137ha; 0.27 RBU), broadleaved woodland (0.008ha; 0.06 RBU), and urban trees represented by T1–T4, G1 and G2 (1.72 RBU). In total, 0.81ha of habitat (excluding trees) will be retained, equating to 2.06 retained biodiversity units. Please refer to drawing *Ascerta KC Modular 30.04.26 (2) – Area Affected by Proposed Development – Scale 1:500*, Appendix 2, and Table 4.1 above.

**Table 4.2: Post-development: Habitat areas created biodiversity calculation**

| Broad habitat                      | Proposed habitat               | Area (hectares) | Distinctiveness                   |       | Condition   |       | CBU         |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
|                                    |                                |                 | Distinctiveness                   | Score | Condition   | Score |             |
| Urban                              | Developed land; sealed surface | 0.085           | V. Low                            | 0     | N/A - Other | 0     | 0.00        |
| <b>Total habitat areas created</b> |                                | <b>0.085</b>    | <b>Created biodiversity units</b> |       |             |       | <b>0.00</b> |

The habitat to be created on-site comprises developed land (sealed surface) associated with the proposed modular building footprint (0.085ha; 0.00 CBU). This habitat provides no biodiversity units within the statutory metric. Please refer to drawing *Ascerta KC Modular 30.04.26 (2) – Area Affected by Proposed Development – Scale 1:500*, Appendix 2, and Table 4.2 above.

## 5. Change in Biodiversity Value

Based on the current development proposals, there will be a net loss of 0.02 habitat units (-0.96%). This demonstrates that a biodiversity net gain has not been achieved for habitat area units, contrary to the requirements of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and the NPPF.

This loss is associated with the removal of a small area of modified grassland to facilitate the proposed modular building. The majority of habitats on-site, including broadleaved woodland and all urban trees (T1–T4, G1 and G2), will be retained.

The proposals do not satisfy the biodiversity trading rules, as the loss of modified grassland is not offset through the creation of an equivalent habitat within the site. As a result, a minor habitat unit deficit remains. The BNG Good Practice Principles, as outlined in Section 1.2, have been applied; however, due to the nature and extent of the development, a net gain has not been achieved for habitat area units.

Avoid losing biodiversity which cannot be offset elsewhere, applying the mitigation hierarchy, ensuring that net gain design achieves the best outcome for biodiversity and creates a net gain legacy for long-term benefits. Through the design process, the majority of habitats and ecological features have been retained, with habitat loss limited to a small area of low distinctiveness modified grassland required for the proposed development.

### **Addressing risk and applying the mitigation hierarchy**

The residual impacts are associated with the loss of a small area of modified grassland. The mitigation hierarchy has been applied through the design process, with broadleaved woodland and all urban trees retained within the development proposals. The remaining habitat loss is limited to a low distinctiveness habitat of relatively low ecological value, resulting in only a minor biodiversity unit deficit.

### **Make a 'measurable' net gain contribution**

Given the habitats present within the site, a measurable net gain has not been achieved for habitat area units. Whilst the proposals retain the majority of habitats and ecological features on-site, the loss of modified grassland results in a residual deficit of 0.02 habitat units. As such, the client will need to secure off-site biodiversity units to meet the requirements of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Full details of any off-site compensation will be provided separately.

### **Trading Rules**

Due to the loss of modified grassland, the trading rules have not been satisfied for habitat area units. Although modified grassland is a low distinctiveness habitat, no compensatory habitat creation is proposed within the site and therefore a small residual deficit remains. Off-site compensation will be required to address this shortfall.

## 6. Conclusion

This Biodiversity Impact Assessment has assessed the change in biodiversity value associated with the proposed development at Knowsley Central School. The site comprises areas of developed land (sealed surface) dominating the majority of the site, together with broadleaved woodland, modified grassland and urban trees (T1–T4, G1 and G2). No irreplaceable habitats are present on-site.

The proposed development results in a net loss of 0.02 habitat units, equating to a loss of 0.96% against the baseline position. Whilst the majority of habitats and ecological features are retained, including all woodland and urban trees, a small area of modified grassland will be lost to facilitate the proposed modular building. Limited habitat creation is proposed on-site, comprising developed land associated with the modular building footprint. The Trading Rules have therefore not been satisfied for habitat area units, as the loss of modified grassland is not offset through habitat creation or enhancement within the site. Consequently, a measurable biodiversity net gain cannot be achieved within the site boundary.

In order to meet mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements, an appropriate off-site biodiversity compensation mechanism will be required, subject to agreement with Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Please refer to Table 6.1 below for a summary of unit deficits and requirements.

**Table 6.1: Biodiversity Unit Deficits and Requirements**

| Unit Type                | Target | Baseline Units | Units Required | Unit Deficit |
|--------------------------|--------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Habitat units</i>     | 10.00% | 2.08           | 2.29           | 0.23         |
| <i>Hedgerow units</i>    | 10.00% | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00         |
| <i>Watercourse units</i> | 10.00% | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00         |

## 7. References

Ascerta report P.2383.26, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L36 7SY, 2026.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2024). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide. Natural England.

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Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (2017). Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (2016–2031).

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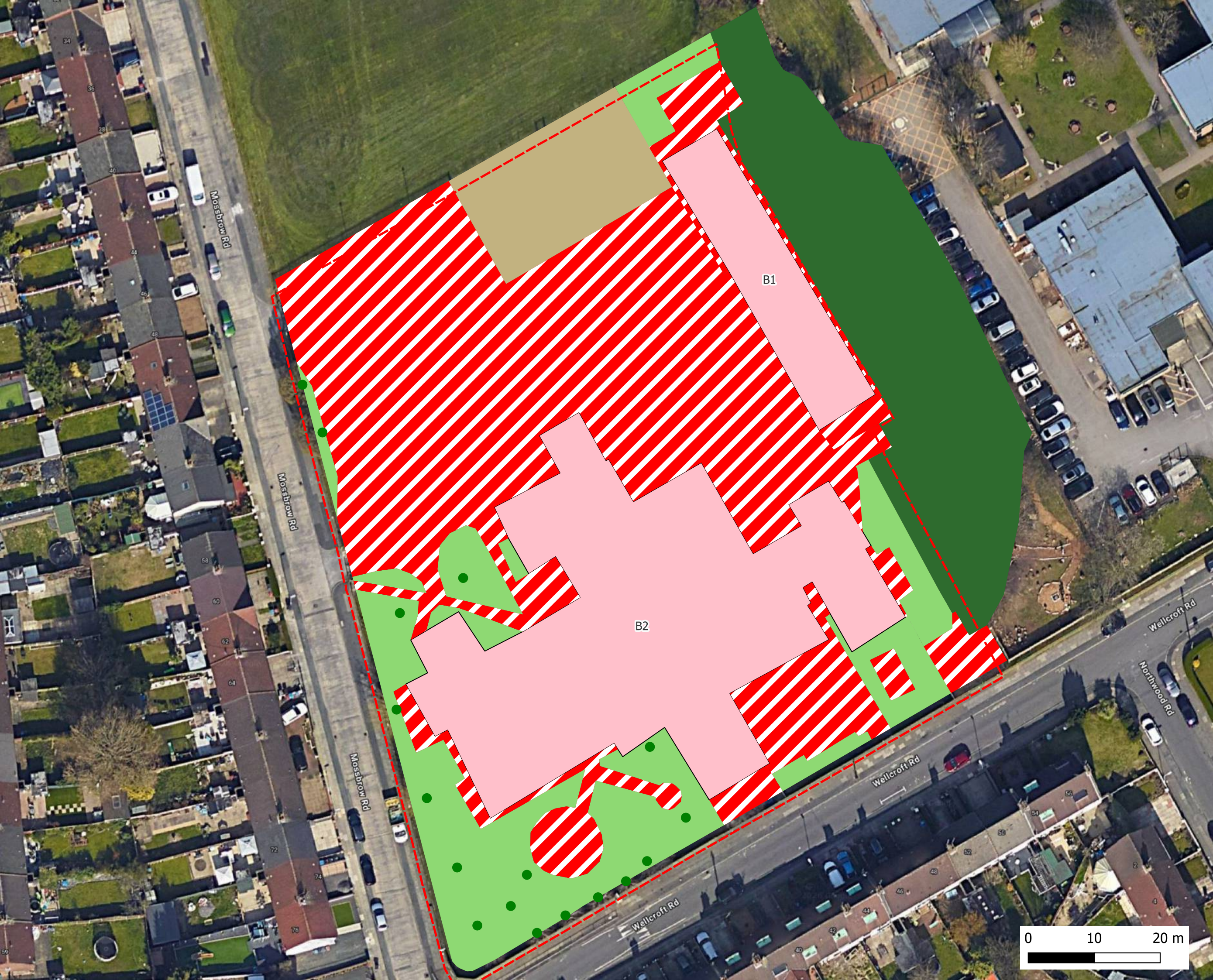
QGIS Development Team (2024). QGIS Geographic Information System (Version 3.38). Open Source Geospatial Foundation.

UK Habitat Classification Working Group (2023). UK Habitat Classification – Habitat Definitions V2.01.

# Appendix 1

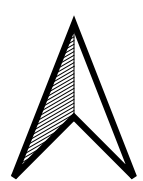


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# Key

- RLB
- Trees
- Baseline Habitats
  - w1- Other woodland; broadleaved
  - g4- Modified grassland
  - u1 - Buildings
  - u1- Artificial grass
  - u1- Developed land; sealed surface



DO NOT SCALE.  
ALL COORDINATES RELATED TO LOCAL GRID.  
LOCATED TO NG BY BEST FIT TO DETAIL.  
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CLIENT:  
Knowsley Council

PROJECT:  
Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L36 7SY

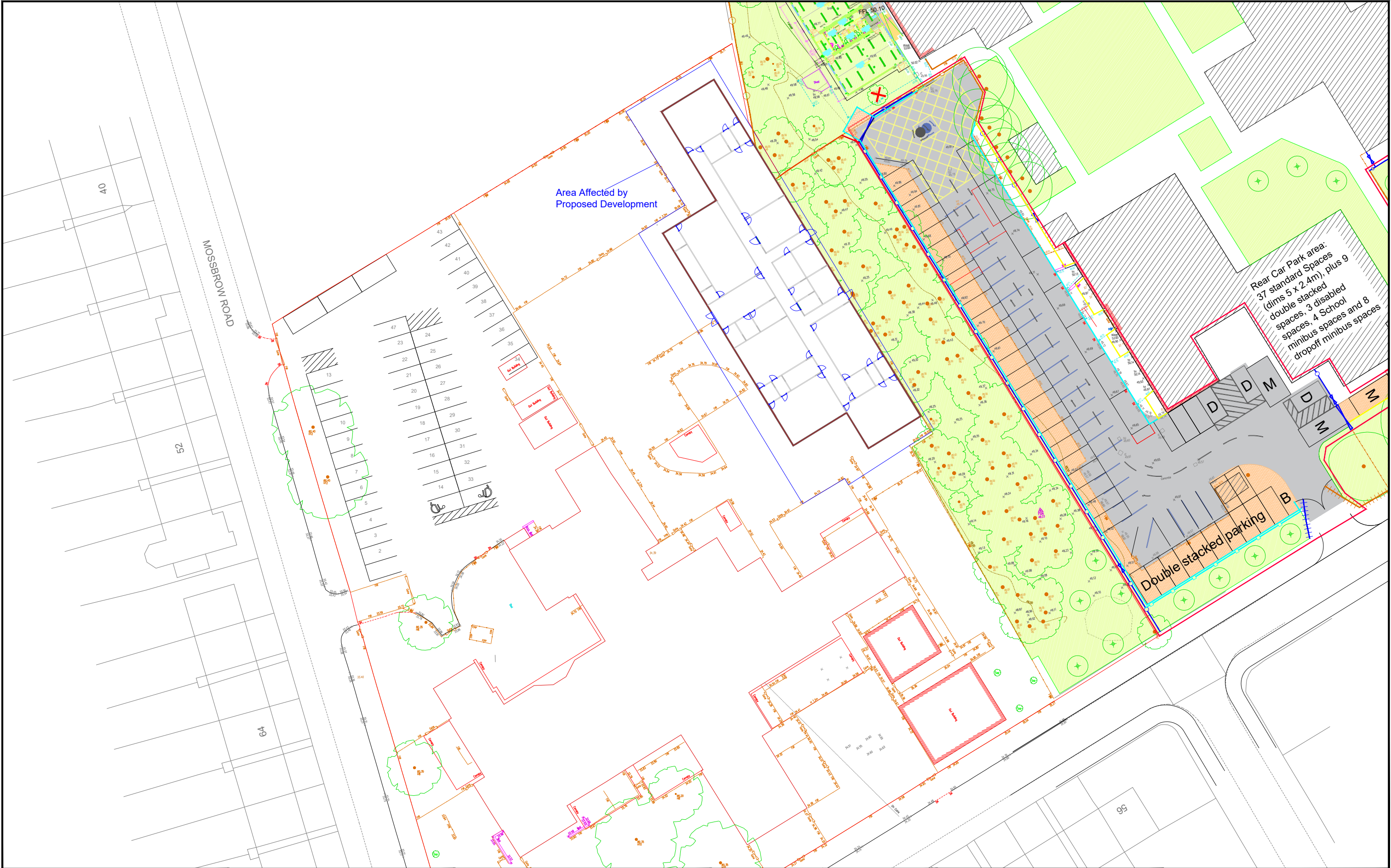
DRAWING TITLE:  
Baseline Habitats

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# Appendix 2



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Knowsley Central Support

NOTES.

| REV | DATE | BY | DESCRIPTION |
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**APPROVAL.**

DRAWING ISSUE STATUS

| REV | DATE | BY | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|------|----|-------------|
| A1  |      |    |             |
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TITLE

**Area Affected by Proposed Development**

|       |            |         |     |
|-------|------------|---------|-----|
| SCALE | CONTRACT   | DRAWING | REV |
| 1:500 |            |         |     |
| DRAWN | DATE       |         |     |
| L.M   | 30/04/2026 |         |     |

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# Appendix 3



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|                                                                                                             |              |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Passes 3 or 4 criteria                                                                                      | Moderate (2) | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Passes 2 or fewer criteria                                                                                  | Poor (1)     |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type. |              |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score <sup>2</sup>                                 |              |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                             |              |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| Survey Cover Sheet |             |                                                          |                                          |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Survey date/s      | 03/02/2026  | Site name or location                                    | Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L36 7SY |
| Weather conditions | dry, cold   | Project or development name                              |                                          |
| Surveyor name      | David Scott | On-site or off-site                                      | On-site                                  |
| Survey reference   | P2383.26    | Reason for assessment (if not baseline condition survey) |                                          |
| Notes              |             |                                                          |                                          |
| <div></div>        |             |                                                          |                                          |

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         |                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         |                                      |
| <b>UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type</b>                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         |                                      |
| <b>Grassland - Modified grassland</b>                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         |                                      |
| <b>On-site or off-site, site name and location</b>                   | On-site, Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L36 7SY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Survey date and Surveyor name</b>                    | 03/02/2026 David Scott               |
| <b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)</b> | P2383.26                             |
| <b>Grid reference</b>                                                | SJ 44514 91900                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Habitat parcel reference</b>                         |                                      |
| <b>Habitat Description</b>                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         |                                      |
|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         |                                      |
| <a href="#">ukhab – UK Habitat Classification</a>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                         |                                      |
| <b>Condition Assessment Criteria</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Criterion passed (Yes or No)</b>                     | <b>Notes (such as justification)</b> |
| A                                                                    | There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). <b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.</b><br><br>Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m <sup>2</sup> (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet. | No                                                      |                                      |
| B                                                                    | Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No                                                      |                                      |
| C                                                                    | Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present).<br><br>Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                     |                                      |
| D                                                                    | Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | No                                                      |                                      |
| E                                                                    | Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) <sup>2</sup> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                                                     |                                      |
| F                                                                    | Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Yes                                                     |                                      |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                       |                    |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----|
| G                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species <sup>3</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>4</sup> ). | Yes                |    |
| Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                       |                    | No |
| Number of criteria passed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                       |                    | 4  |
| Condition Assessment Result<br>(out of 7 criteria)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Condition Assessment Score                                                                                            | Score Achieved x/√ |    |
| Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Good (3)                                                                                                              |                    |    |
| Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Moderate (2)                                                                                                          |                    |    |
| Passes 3 or fewer criteria;<br>OR<br>Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Poor (1)                                                                                                              | X                  |    |
| Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                       |                    |    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                       |                    |    |
| Footnotes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                       |                    |    |
| <p><b>Footnote 1</b> – Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> .</p> <p><b>Footnote 2</b> – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.</p> <p><b>Footnote 3</b> – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.</p> <p><b>Footnote 4</b> – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).</p> |                                                                                                                       |                    |    |

| Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                     |                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                     |                               |
| Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland<br>Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland<br>Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands<br>Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland<br>Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland<br>Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved<br>Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed<br>Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods<br>Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods<br>Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood<br>Woodland and forest - Wet woodland     |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                     |                               |
| Habitat Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                     |                               |
| <a href="#">ukhab – UK Habitat Classification</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                     |                               |
| This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                     |                               |
| <a href="#">Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                     |                               |
| <p>IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland being input into the biodiversity metric. The outputs of this condition assessment are not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the EWBG condition assessment, because the EWBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland), and minor changes to other indicators.</p> |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                     |                               |
| On-site or off-site, site name and location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | On-site, Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L36 7SY                                    | Survey date and Surveyor name                                                                                                                          | 03/02/2026, David Scott                                                                              |                     |                               |
| Limitations (if applicable)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                      | Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)                                                                                                       | P.2383.26                                                                                            |                     |                               |
| Grid reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | SJ 44548 91870                                                                       | Habitat parcel reference                                                                                                                               | A1.1.1 - Semi-natural broadleaved woodland                                                           |                     |                               |
| Condition Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                      |                     |                               |
| Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Good (3 points)                                                                      | Moderate (2 points)                                                                                                                                    | Poor (1 point)                                                                                       | Score per indicator | Notes (such as justification) |
| A Age distribution of trees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Three age-classes <sup>1</sup> present.                                              | Two age-classes <sup>1</sup> present.                                                                                                                  | One age-class <sup>1</sup> present.                                                                  | 3                   |                               |
| B Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No significant browsing damage evident in woodland <sup>2</sup> .                    | Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland <sup>2</sup> .                                                 | Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland <sup>2</sup> . | 3                   |                               |
| C Invasive plant species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No invasive species <sup>3</sup> present in woodland.                                | Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, and other invasive species <sup>3</sup> <10% cover. | Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species <sup>3</sup> ≥10% cover.            | 3                   |                               |
| D Number of native tree species                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Five or more native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> found across woodland parcel. | Three to four native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> found across woodland parcel.                                                                  | Two or less native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> across woodland parcel.                        | 3                   |                               |



## **Ascerta**

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