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Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L36 7SY

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Knowsley Council

P.2383.26
June 2026

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Reference	Site	Client	Date
P.2383.26	Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L36 7SY	Knowsley Council	29 June 2026

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Revision	Date	Details	Name
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Executive Summary

Ascerta has been instructed by **Knowsley Council** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Building Inspection for bats at Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L38 7SY (hereafter referred to as **the site**).

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Building Inspection for bats comprised of a desk study and biological records search, as well as a site walkover survey in order to map habitat types. The survey was extended to assess the potential for protected species to use the site. The assessment provides baseline data regarding the current site conditions and, where appropriate, allows recommendations to be made in respect of further potential work in order to satisfy current UK wildlife legislation.

Assessed against the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland 2nd Edition* (2018), the site's habitats range in ecological value from negligible to within the zone of influence.

Bat surveys are conducted in accordance with the *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines*, published 2024 (the Guidelines). Strict adherence to these is not necessary, but where practice deviates from them, clear reasons and rationale are required.

The site provides some very limited habitat for birds and bats. All habitats assessed are likely to be lost to the proposals. However, as the habitats to be lost to the proposals are small in area and not of high ecological value, it is considered that their loss can be mitigated for, and the proposals will not adversely affect the ecological value of the wider area, provided the recommendations detailed below are followed.

- If works have not begun by February 2028, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site
- Production and implementation of a small mammal RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production and implementation of a badger RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting
- Production of a management plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around a new development site
- Vegetation clearance or pruning and building works should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1 March to 31 August inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds, or a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing

1. Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by **Knowsley Council** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Daytime Building Inspection for bats at the site. The site OS grid reference is SJ 44512 91832 and the What3Words reference is freed.remind.bliss. The extent of the site is displayed in Figure 1.1 below, within which the red line indicates the extent of the proposed site and the blue line indicates the full survey area.



Figure 1.1: Extent of the site (red line: proposed site, blue line: full survey area)

This report presents the results of the survey including evaluation of habitats on-site and potential for protected species to be using the site. The report includes recommendations for further actions where applicable, in order to satisfy current UK wildlife legislation and to achieve our client's objectives. Relevant legislation is detailed within Appendix 4.

The site is a school which primarily comprises of buildings and sealed, artificial surfaces with small areas of improved grassland and an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland. The proposals aim to demolish a building currently used as classrooms and to replace this with a larger, more modern block of classrooms. This will require relocating the fence which currently acts as a boundary between the school grounds and an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Within Figure 1.1 (above) the red line indicates the extent of the proposed site and the blue line indicates the full survey area.

2. Objectives

Our client's objectives are to assess the potential ecological constraints of the proposed development site.

Our objectives are as follows:

- Identify and evaluate any features of ecological value and the potential of the site to support protected species based on the walkover survey and biological records search
- Identify designated sites within 2km of the site
- Review protected species records within 2km of the site
- Map the habitats within the site using Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2010) methods
- Provide recommendations for further species-specific surveys and mitigation measures where current legislation requires
- Provide recommendations that seek to enhance the ecological value of the site
- Provide recommendations to assist our clients in achieving their objectives whilst satisfying current UK wildlife legislation

3. Survey Methods

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal involved the collection and review of data from a desk study and field survey, along with an assessment of the value of the habitats following the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines.

3.1 Desk Study

A desk study was undertaken in January 2026 to identify protected and notable habitats and species, and nature conservation designations potentially relevant to the proposed development. The desk study was carried out using the sources detailed in Table 3.1 below. For the purposes of this report, protected and notable species records have been restricted to the last 15 years.

Table 3.1: Desk study data information

Source	Date obtained	Data obtained
Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)	13 January 2026 and 19 February 2026	- Statutory designated sites within 2km of the site - Protected and notable habitats within 2km of the site - Ancient woodlands within 2km of the site - European Protected Species Licenses (EPSLs) within 2km of the site
Merseyside biobank	22 January 2026	- Non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site - Protected and notable species records within 2km of the site
North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan	13 January 2026	Additional protections afforded to species/habitat

3.2 Field Survey

A walkover survey of the site was conducted on 03 February 2026 by David Scott MSc. The habitat types and features of ecological interest were identified and mapped in compliance with *the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 2010). During the survey, weather conditions were recorded to ensure optimal surveying conditions according to guidelines. Any sub-optimal conditions will be discussed in the limitations.

This includes the identification of the main species present and examination of the potential for any protected species. Habitats were mapped (Appendix 1) and target notes (Appendix 2) made for any interesting features.

The surveys particularly focused on the following species and habitat features:

- Mammals badgers (*Meles meles*) and bats
- Birds (including species potentially associated with 'European Sites')
- Amphibians and reptiles
- Invertebrates
- Hedgerows and boundaries
- Invasive plant species
- Plant communities and trees

3.3 Bat Survey Methods

The survey methods followed the guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition* (2024). Habitats, buildings and trees were assessed for suitability for use by bats and categorised independently using Table 4.1 page 44 within the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Collins, 2024).

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for bats

Habitats on site were assessed for their suitability for bats to use them for roosting, commuting and foraging, both on the site and surrounding area. Commuting and foraging habitat suitability was categorised **low to high**. Any commuting and foraging habitat valued as **moderate** or above may need further survey effort if lost to the proposals.

Preliminary Roost Assessment trees

All trees were inspected from ground level for Potential Roost Features (PRFs). Features searched for included: Natural or woodpecker holes, cracks/splits in major limbs, loose bark, hollows/cavities, dense epicormic growth, bird and bat boxes. Where such features were found they were investigated for scratches or staining, bat droppings and smoothing of surfaces around entry points.

Trees on site are categorised as per Table 3.2 (below). Trees assigned a suitability of **FAR** or above may require further survey effort if they are to be lost to the development.

Table 3.2: Guidelines for assessing the suitability of trees on proposed development sites for bats, to be applied using professional judgement. Guidelines taken from Table 4.2, page 45 of the Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition* (2024).

Suitability	Description
None	Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any.
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree.
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present.

Internal/external inspection of the building

A daytime internal and external inspection of the building was carried out during the survey by a suitably experienced ecologist. The building was searched externally looking for signs of bats, including staining on barge boards, soffits, and more commonly, droppings on flat surfaces i.e., window ledges that would indicate potential roosting sites. Possible bat access points such as loose tiles, cracks and crevices or crawl spaces beneath and/or behind roofing materials such as roofing felt, panelling, soffits and tiles were identified and were also checked for signs of use by bats.

Internally, all areas of the building were accessed where possible and inspected for signs of use by bats. Signs of use by bats include droppings, scratching, staining, dead bats (particularly in uncovered water tanks) and actual bats. Any features noted, for example, in loft spaces, such as light gaps (indicating potential access points), loft dimensions, presence of roofing felt and loft conditions such as ventilation, temperature and cobweb coverage, were also identified and checked.

Any buildings on site are categorised as per Table 3.3 (overleaf). Buildings assigned a suitability of **Low** or above may require further inspection if they are to be lost to the developments.

Table 3.3: Guidelines for assessing potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement. Guidelines taken from Table 4.2, page 45 of the Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition (2024)*.

Potential suitability	Description	
	Roosting habitats in structures	Potential flight paths and foraging habitats
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices / suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight lines or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
Negligible^a	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains, as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions ^b and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats ^c).	Habitats that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight paths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitats. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^b and surrounding habitat, but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity or hibernation – the categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^b and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation sites.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

^a Negligible is defined as 'so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant'. This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute).

^b For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

^c Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten et al., 2016 and Jansen et al., 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in the UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.

3.4 Badger Survey Methods

The site was searched for setts and badger field signs including foraging areas, latrines and tracks. Badger surveys are carried out following *Best Practice Badger Survey Guidance Note (2018)*. Attention was paid to the presence of the following field signs:

- Setts: Single holes or a series of holes likely to be interconnected underground
- Latrines: Badgers usually deposit faeces in excavated pits
- Paths and footprints
- Scratching posts: At the base of trees
- Snuffle holes: Areas where badgers have searched for insects
- Day nest: Bundles of vegetation where badgers may sleep above ground
- Traces of hair

3.5 Evaluation

Habitats and species on the site were evaluated following the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (2018)*. A geographical frame of reference is assigned to each habitat and species, with **International Value** being most important, then **National, Regional, County, District, Local** and lastly, within the immediate **Zone of Influence (Zoi)** of the proposals only.

Value judgements are based on characteristics that can be used to identify ecological resources or features likely to be important in terms of biodiversity. These include site designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). For undesignated features, the size, conservation status (locally, nationally or internationally), and the quality of the ecological resource are considered. Ecological resource quality can refer to habitats (for instance if they are particularly diverse, or a good example of a specific habitat type), other features (such as wildlife corridors or mosaics of habitats) or species populations or assemblages.

The recommendations detailed within this report aim to meet requirements of the Environment Act and Statutory Biodiversity Metric as far as possible at this stage.

3.6 Limitations

The site visit was undertaken in February. Although this is within the sub-optimal time of year for phase 1 habitat surveys, sufficient vegetation was present to enable habitat identification. It is not considered a limit to the conclusions of the report based on the habitats found within the site and the works proposed.

The absence of biological records does not necessarily mean the absence of species. This has been considered within the report conclusions. As the survey was conducted during a period of reduced activity for species such as bats, identification of species activity, such as droppings, fur or evidence of foraging, was limited. This limitation has been considered within the report conclusions.

No ponds or ornamental water features were identified within any residential gardens located adjacent to the site. However, it should be noted that unidentified ponds / water features may exist in nearby gardens (within 250m of the site). In general, such water features are usually relatively small in size and are more likely to be used by common amphibians i.e. smooth newt, and/or palmate newt and/or common frog (albeit great crested newt and common toad may use them in certain circumstances; for example, if there is a larger waterbody close by that supports either of these species).

The site was visited on only one occasion. This produces a snapshot of habitats and species on the site and others may be present at different times of the day or year. This limitation has been considered within this report.

4. Survey Results

4.1 Desk Study

Statutory sites

No statutory designated sites were identified within a 2km radius of the proposed development site.

Non-statutory sites

Ten non-statutory designated sites were identified within a 2km radius of the proposed development site. These are listed in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Non-statutory designated sites

Non-statutory designated site	Reason for designation	Distance to proposed development
Huyton Lane Wetland Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	3 BAP habitats including unimproved neutral grassland, marshy grassland and unimproved acid grassland. 7 locally rare plant species.	450m south
River Alt, Seth Powell Way (LWS)	Important habitat for water vole.	800m west
Huyton and Prescott Golf Club (LWS)	1 species of conservation concern. 5 regionally important species. 19 locally rare species. - Important area for water vole.	940m east
Knowsley Park	5 Priority BAP habitats including acidic grassland, neutral grassland, basin mire, swamp and tall fen. 4 regionally important plant species. 30 locally rare plant species. - Important habitats for water voles and red squirrel.	1km north
Grassland west of Seth Powell Way (LWS)	- Priority BAP habitat Unimproved neutral grassland. - Regionally important species Burnet rose (<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>).	1.2km northwest
Carr Lane Lake, Prescott (LWS)	- Priority BAP habitat standing water. - Regionally important species English blue bell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>) and blunt-flowered rush (<i>Juncus subnodulosus</i>).	1.5km east
Stadt Moers Q3 (LWS)	1 BAP habitat unimproved neutral grassland. 1 species of conservation concern English bluebell. 2 regionally important plant species. 9 locally important plant species.	1.5km southeast
Stadt Moers Q2 and Visitor Centre (LWS)	1 plant species of regional importance. 6 locally rare plant species.	1.7km southeast
Stadt Moers Q4 (LWS)	1 BAP Habitat unimproved neutral grassland. 1 species of conservation concern English bluebell 2 regionally important plant species English bluebell and northern marsh-orchid (<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>). 5 Locally rare plant species.	1.8km southeast
Ten Acre Pits, Huyton (LWS)	Priority BAP habitat unimproved neutral grassland.	1.9km south

The full designations for each site are listed within Appendix 5.

The site does not lie within a relevant Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone.

Priority Habitats

Grassland

One area of Priority Habitat Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland was returned within 2km of the site located approximately 460m south of the site within Huyton wetlands park and gardens.

Wetlands

One area of Priority Habitat Lowland Fens was returned within 2km of the site, located approximately 1.8km north of the site within Knowsley Hall.

Woodland

Numerous areas of Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland were returned within 2km of the site within the closest area located approximately 470m east of the site within King George V Playing Fields.

One area of Priority Habitat Traditional Orchard was returned within 2km of the site, located approximately 1.6km north of the site within Horse Hey Plantation.

One area of Wood Pasture and Parkland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitat were also returned, the closest area 1.1km north within Knowsley Park.

The site lies within a Conservation Target Area for the following Priority Species:

- Lapwing (*Vanellus Vanellus*)

The site also falls within a breeding area for the following Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds:

- Grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*)
- Lapwing
- Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
- Tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*)
- Yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Priority Species

Following a review of records held by the LERN, several Priority Species that have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the proposed development have been identified. These include birds, bats, badgers, hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and amphibians. The species records are summarised below, and the detailed records held by LERN within 2km of the site are displayed within Appendix 5. Protected species legislation can be found within Appendix 4.

Birds

2,802 records were returned for bird species within 2km of the site. Species returned include swift (*Apus apus*), house martin (*Delichon urbicum*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*). All species recorded within 2km are displayed within Appendix 5. The most recent of which was a 2024 record of lesser redpoll located 1.2km north of the site. The closest of which was a 2019 record of house sparrow located 520m south of the site.

Bats

LERN returned 22 records for bats within the search area. Bat species include common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*), noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) and Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*). The closest of which was a 2016 record of common pipistrelle located 680m northeast of the site. The most recent of which was a 2024 record of noctule, common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle located 1.2km north of the site.

Amphibians

Two records for great crested newt were returned within 2km of the site. The closest of which was a 2011 record located 1.7km east of the site.

A further 15 amphibians were returned within 2km of the site. Species present include common frog (*Rana temporaria*) and common toad (*Bufo bufo*). The closest of which was a 2011 record of common frog located 530m southeast of the site. The most recent of which was a 2019 record of common toad located 2km south of the site.

Reptiles

No records for reptiles were returned within 2km of the site.

Otters

No records for otters were returned within 2km of the site.

Water voles

Two records for water voles were returned within 2km of the site. The closest of which was a 2011 record located 1.7km east of the site. This was also the most recent record.

Badgers

Two records for badgers were returned within 2km of the site. The closest of which was a 2011 record located 1.7km east of the site. This was also the most recent record.

Other mammals

20 records for other mammals were returned within 2km of the site. Species include hedgehog, polecat (*Mustela putorius*) and brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*). The closest of which was a 2010 record of polecat located 250m west of the site. The most recent of which was a 2024 record of brown hare located 1.2km north of the site. The closest of which was a 2021 record of hedgehog located 380m south of the site.

European Protected Species Licences

There was one EPSL application within 2km of the site since 2021. This EPSL application is detailed below (distance and direction from site):

- Common pipistrelle, 2018-38343-EPS-MIT starting 01/01/2019, ending 31/01/2022 (860m north)

4.2 Habitat Survey

Weather

The weather conditions during the survey were cold (5°C), dry and overcast (8/8 cloud cover) with a F3 (Beaufort Scale) gentle breeze, therefore appropriate for this type of survey.

The site is bound to the south and east by residential dwellings, to the east by another school and to the north by an open area of improved grassland, beyond which lie further residential dwellings. A small area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland is present immediately adjacent to the northeastern site boundary. Several roads are also present within the surrounding land use which may act as barriers for commuting wildlife.

Table 4.2: Habitats present on site including habitat alphanumeric code references from JNCC (2010)

Habitat description and JNCC codes	Site description
Hardstanding (J4)	Hardstanding areas of concrete paving, playground surface and tarmac are present throughout the site (see drawing P.2383.26.E01, Appendix 1). These hardstanding areas are utilised as footpaths, a playground and a car park. This habitat dominates much of the site throughout both the red line area and the blue line area indicated within Figure 1.1. This habitat is displayed in Photograph 1 within Appendix 3.
Other Artificial Surface (J5)	An area of artificial grass is present to the northwest of the site within the blue line area indicated within Figure 1.1 (see P.2383.26.E01, Appendix 1). This area of artificial grass is utilised as a play area for the children within the school and contains various playground equipment. This habitat is displayed in Photograph 2 within Appendix 3.
Building(s) (J3.6)	One building (B1) is present within the site and dominates the majority of the area within the red line indicated within Figure 1.1 (see drawing P.2383.26.E01, Appendix 3). The building is of brickwork construction with a flat felt roof, metal window frames, wooden doors and a

Habitat description and JNCC codes	Site description
	mixture of wooden and PVC fascias. The building is currently in use as classrooms and is in good decorative order. The building is detailed within Section 4.3 below. The building is displayed in Photographs 3-11 within Appendix 3.
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland (A1.1.1)	An area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland is present off-site along the eastern site boundary (see drawing P.2383.26.E01, Appendix 1). The ground layer is mostly bare ground and managed as the area is utilised for woodland school activities. Sycamore, ash, oak, alder and silver birch are present within the canopy layer with elder, privet and holly present within the understorey. Ivy is also present on several trees, the adjacent fence and on the ground layer. There is a thick layer of leaf litter present on the ground within the woodland. This habitat is off-site; however, overhanging branches may need to be pruned to accommodate the proposals as branches extend into the red line boundary of the site, displayed within Figure 1.1 This habitat is displayed in Photograph 12 within Appendix 3.
Improved grassland (B6)	A small area of improved grassland is present to the north of the site within both the red line and blue line indicated within Figure 1.1 (see drawing P.2383.26.E01, Appendix 1). The sward height is approximately 5–10cm. The grassland is dominated by perennial ryegrass with creeping buttercup, common daisy, milk thistle and clovers. This area of habitat is currently regularly managed. This habitat is displayed in Photograph 17 within Appendix 3.

4.3 Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment of Buildings and Trees

Table 4.3: Preliminary bat roost assessment of buildings within the site

Building B1

Building Description
Building B1 is a single-storey building which comprises several classrooms which are currently in-use. Building B1 is displayed within Photographs 3-11 within Appendix 3. The building is currently in-use as a school building comprising several classrooms and is in good decorative order. Windows are present throughout the buildings allowing natural light into all rooms of the building. There is no loft void present. The walls and ceilings are all intact and comprised of panelling throughout. No evidence of bats or other species were identified during the internal inspection of building B1. The building is of brickwork construction with a flat felt roof, metal window frames, wooden doors and a mixture of wooden and PVC fascias. The fascias are intact and sealed tightly to the walls and roof lining throughout. The pointing is intact with no gaps or cracks identified. There is a cavity wall present, however no access points into this cavity were identified during the survey. The windows are intact and double-glazed. The doorframes were in good condition with no gaps or rot present. No access points for bats were identified during the survey of building B1.
Assessment of B1
The building was assessed to have negligible hibernation potential for crevice and void dwelling bats and negligible potential for day and maternity roosts for crevice dwelling bats and negligible potential for void dwelling bats. Overall, the building is classified as having negligible bat roosting potential.

4.4 Protected and Notable Species

Table 4.4: Habitat suitability for protected and notable species

Birds

Habitat suitability

The semi-natural broadleaved woodland and improved grassland habitats within the blue line boundary (Figure 1.1) of the site provide suitable foraging and nesting opportunities for bird species. However, as the woodland does not fall within the red line boundary of the site it will not be impacted by the current proposals, beyond some potential crown lifting of trees overhanging the site. The site lies within a target area for Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds, as detailed in Section 4.1. The semi-natural broadleaved woodland offers some limited habitat for tree sparrow, snipe and grey partridge; however, the area is subject to high human disturbance as it is utilised as a woodland school area. No suitable habitats are present for lapwing or yellow wagtail.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

During the survey, magpies were identified within the site.

Further survey required

For any vegetation removal or building works, a nesting bird survey will be required (Section 5.2).

Bats

Habitat suitability

The buildings on site offer **negligible** potential to support bat roosts as detailed above in Section 4.3. The woodland to the east of the site was assessed to provide **low** suitability for bats. The trees within the site were subject to a ground level inspection for potential bat features during the survey. No features, such as cracked/split limbs or tear outs were identified. No potential for roosting bats was identified within the trees within the woodland adjacent to the site. The improved grassland and semi-natural broadleaved woodland within the site provide low suitability for commuting and foraging bats, with moderate connectivity to the surrounding land use.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

Evidence of bats was not identified within the site during the survey. No suitable features to support a bat roost were identified within the habitats present on site.

Further survey required

No further survey for bats will be required within the current proposals (see Section 5.2).

Badgers

Habitat suitability

The semi-natural broadleaved woodland and improved grassland habitats within the blue line boundary (Figure 1.1) of the site provide limited foraging and shelter habitat for badger. However, only the area of improved grassland will be impacted by the proposals, with some crown raising potentially occurring on trees that encroach into the red line boundary (Figure 1.1).

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of badger was identified within the site during the survey. Within the wider landscape, connectivity for badger is limited as the site is bound by residential dwellings, however, an area of open space lies north of the site and connects to the semi-improved woodland. Badgers may be further restricted by the metal fencing present along the site boundaries.

Further survey required

Badger will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, badger do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report. No further survey effort of badger will be required; however RAMS should be implemented (see Section 5.2).

Water voles

Habitat suitability

The site provides no suitable habitat for water vole. No ditch network or watercourses were returned within the wider landscape as mapped on MAGIC maps. The site provides no suitable connectivity for water vole as it is bound by Alt Bridge School, several roads and residential dwellings.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of water vole was identified during the site visit.

Further survey required

Water vole will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, water vole do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Otters

Habitat suitability

The site provides no suitable habitat for otters. No ditch network or watercourses were returned within the wider landscape as mapped on MAGIC Maps. The site provides no suitable connectivity for otters as it is bound by Alt Bridge School, several roads and residential dwellings.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of otters was identified during the site visit.

Further survey required

Otters will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, otters do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Amphibians

Habitat suitability

No waterbodies or watercourses are present within the site. No ditch network, ponds or watercourses are present within 500m of the site as mapped on MAGIC Maps. The improved grassland and semi-natural broadleaved woodland provide some limited terrestrial habitats for amphibians; however, there is no aquatic habitat or suitable connectivity to the site for amphibians.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of amphibians was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

Amphibians will not be impacted by the proposals within the site; therefore, amphibians do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.

Reptiles

Habitat suitability

The habitats within the site do not offer suitability to support reptiles. The habitats within the site are prone to high human disturbance.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of reptiles was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

No further survey for reptile will be required. Reptiles do not require consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further.

Invertebrates

Habitat suitability

The semi-natural broadleaved woodland and improved grassland habitats within the blue line boundary (Figure 1.1) of the site provide some limited habitat for invertebrates, however the area is prone to human disturbance.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of invertebrates was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

No further survey for invertebrates will be required. Invertebrates do not require consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further.

Small mammals

Habitat suitability

The semi-natural broadleaved woodland and improved grassland habitats within the blue line boundary (Figure 1.1) of the site provide limited foraging and shelter habitat for small mammal species such as hedgehog.

Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of small mammals was identified within the site during the survey.

Further survey required

No further survey effort of other small mammals will be required; however, Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) should be implemented (see Section 5.2).

Invasive species

No non-native invasive species were identified within the site during the walkover survey.

5. Evaluation and Recommendations

5.1 Designated Sites and Habitats

The site lies within 1km of Huyton Lane Wetland LWS (450m south), River Alt, Seth Powell Way LWS (800m west) and Huyton and Prescot Golf Club LWS (940m east). It is therefore recommended that a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) is produced and implemented to present harm to the sites throughout the construction phase of the works. It is anticipated that these areas will not be subject to increased recreational activity as a result of the development as the proposals are to extend existing facilities.

The site does not fall within a relevant Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone. It is considered that there will be no impact on any SSSIs in the vicinity as a result of the proposals.

Mitigation

The habitats on site comprise hardstanding, improved grassland and buildings. These habitats are considered to have an ecological value of **within the zone of influence** of the site or lower. An area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland is immediately adjacent to the eastern site boundary; this habitat is not designated or recorded as priority habitat, as mapped by MAGIC Maps. Overall, the proposals do not have the potential to adversely affect the ecological value of the area as a result of the impacts on the semi-natural broadleaved woodland, therefore it is recommended that this loss of habitat should be compensated for (subject to requirements presented within P.2383.26 *Biological Impact Assessment, [Knowsley Central School, Huyton, L36 7SY]*).

5.2 Protected and Notable Species Recommendations

Birds

The improved grassland within the site and semi-natural broadleaved woodland immediately adjacent to the eastern site boundary provides suitable habitat for nesting and foraging bird species. Although this habitat is not going to be lost to the proposals, it may be necessary to conduct some crown lifting on the trees which overhang the site. It is therefore recommended that vegetation clearance and building works should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (**1 March to 31 August inclusive**) to avoid any impact on breeding birds. If vegetation clearance cannot be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season, a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing. If an active birds' nest is identified, a suitable buffer zone should be implemented where no works are to occur within until the young have fledged the nest.

Bats

The habitats on site provide **low** suitability for commuting and foraging bats.

Building B1 (see P.2383.25.E01, Appendix 1) on site was assessed to provide **negligible** potential for bats.

The building will be demolished to accommodate the proposals within the site, however, as the building was assessed to provide **negligible** suitability for roosting bats, **no further survey** effort will be required.

The trees within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland to the east of the site were assessed at ground level to determine their suitability for roosting bats. **No** potential roost features were identified within any of the trees present within this area of woodland and therefore **no further survey** effort for bats is required.

Badgers

The improved grassland within the site and semi-natural broadleaved woodland immediately adjacent to the site provide some limited habitat for badgers.

As badgers are a mobile species, it is recommended that a **Badger RAMS Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species.

Small mammals

The improved grassland within the site and semi-natural broadleaved woodland immediately adjacent to the site provide some limited habitat for small mammals.

Although the woodland is not currently planned to be lost, it is likely to be partially impacted by the proposals through pruning and crown lifting of trees, and therefore it is recommended that a **Small Mammal RAMS Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species.

Invasive species

No non-native invasive species were identified during the walkover survey. As invasive species can colonise very quickly it is recommended that an **updated invasive species check** is undertaken prior to the start of works.

5.3 Enhancements

In order to meet requirements for biodiversity protection and enhancement outlined within the NPPF, it is recommended that ecological enhancements are included. These could include:

- Provision of 2 bird boxes (25mm, 28mm or 32mm entrance hole box, house sparrow terrace, swift box), attached to or integrated within woodland adjacent to the site or within the new buildings on site

6. Conclusions

The site was subject to an extended phase one habitat survey and a preliminary bat roost assessment of all buildings. During the survey and following a review of historical species records, it is considered that an impact on birds, bats and small mammals may occur in relation to the proposals for the site. The following recommendations have been made to avoid an impact on these species:

- If works have not begun by February 2028, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site
- Production and implementation of a small mammal RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production and implementation of a badger RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting
- Production of a management plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around a new development site
- Vegetation clearance or pruning and building works should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1 March to 31 August inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds, or a nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing

It is considered that there would be very limited impacts on the local ecology as a result of the proposals, provided the recommendations detailed within Section 5.0 above are followed.

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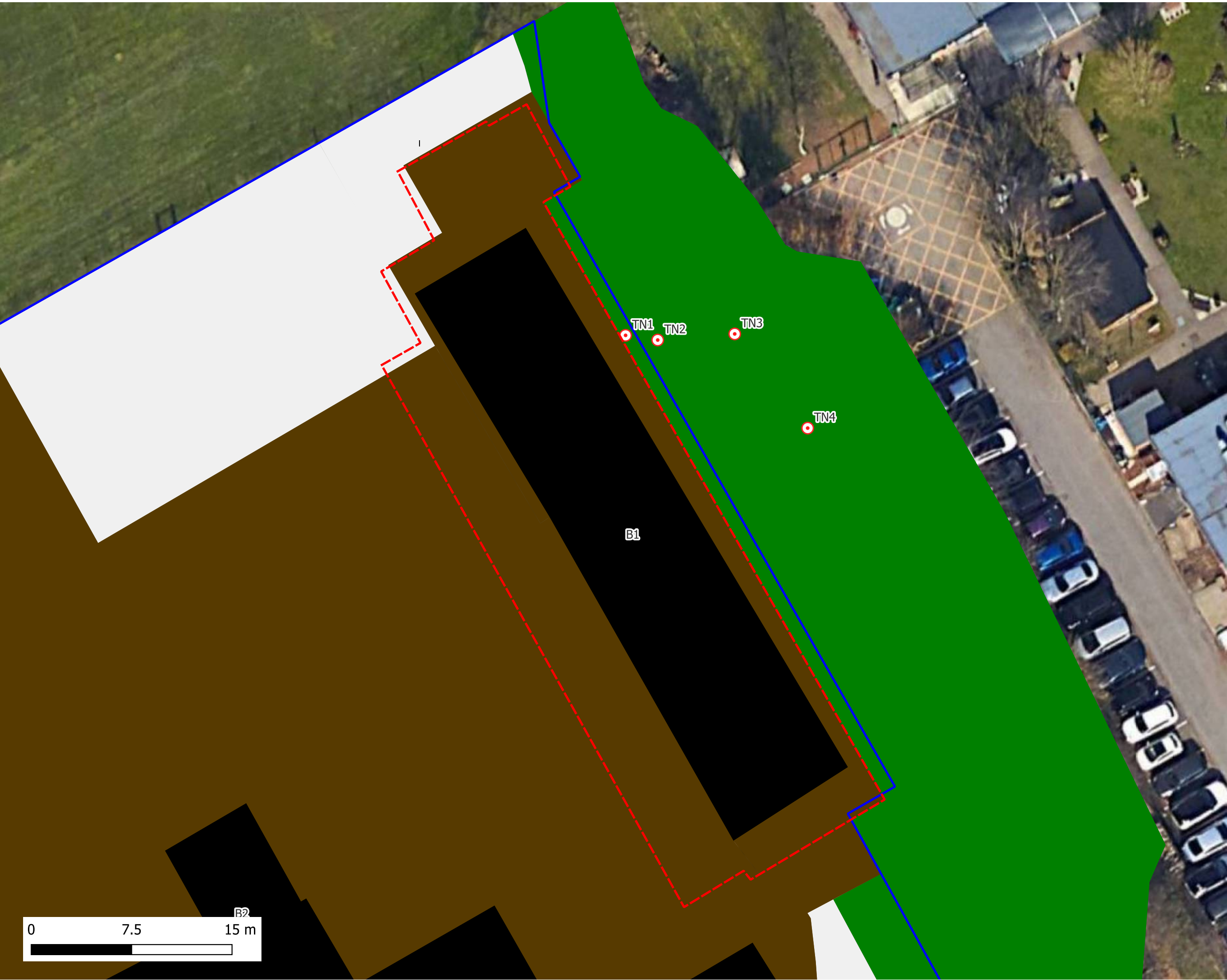
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Appendix 1

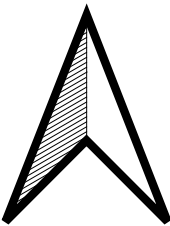


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- Full extent of school grounds
- Target Notes
- A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland (semi-natural)
- B4 - Improved grassland
- J3.6 - Buildings
- J5 - Other habitat
- Hardstanding

TN1 - Piled logs
TN2 - Invertebrate hibernacula (bug hotel)
TN3 - Nest box on tree
TN4 - Bird's nest



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PROJECT:
Knowsley Central School, Huyton,
L36 7SY

DRAWING TITLE:
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

SCALE: NTS@A3	DRAWN BY: DS	DRAWING No: P.2383.26.E01
DATE: 24/06/2026	CHKD BY: LK	REV: -

Appendix 2



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Appendix 2: Species Lists and Target Notes

Table 1: Flora species

English name	Scientific name	DAFOR
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	O
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	O
Clover	<i>Trifolium sp.</i>	R
Common daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	R
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	F
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	R
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	R
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	O
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	R
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	R
Milk thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	R
Moss	<i>Bryophyta sp.</i>	R
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	O
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	O
Poplar	<i>Populus sp.</i>	O
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	R
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	O
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	O

* invasive species

Table 2: Fauna species

English name	Scientific name
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>

Table 3: Target notes

Target Note number	Description
TN1	Piled logs
TN2	Invertebrate hibernacula (bug hotel)
TN3	Nest box on tree
TN4	Bird's nest

Appendix 3

Appendix 3: Photographs

Table 4: Photographs of the site



Photograph 1: Example of hardstanding (playground surface) present within the site



Photograph 2: Artificial grass area to the north of the site



Photograph 3: Western aspect of building B1 (photograph taken facing south)



Photograph 4: Further example of western aspect of building B1 (photograph taken facing north)



Photograph 5: Northern aspect of building B1



Photograph 6: Southern aspect of building B1 and further example of hardstanding (paving) present within the site



Photograph 7: Eastern aspect of building B1
(photograph taken facing south)



Photograph 8: Further example of eastern aspect of
building B1 (photograph taken facing north)



Photograph 9: Example of internal building condition
(corridors)



Photograph 10: Example of internal building
condition (classrooms)



Photograph 11: Example of well-sealed fascias
present throughout building B1



Photograph 12: Example of semi-natural
broadleaved woodland to the east of the site



Photograph 13: Example of piled logs present within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland



Photograph 14: Example of invertebrate hibernacula present within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland



Photograph 15: Nest box present within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland



Photograph 16: Bird's nest present within the canopy layer of the semi-natural broadleaved woodland to the east of the site



Photograph 17: Improved grassland present within the site

Appendix 4

Appendix 4: Relevant Legislation

European Legislation

The following Directives have been adopted by the European Union and provide protection for fauna and flora species of European importance and the habitats which support them:

- Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive)
- Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive)

UK Legislation

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into national legislation through the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (The Habitats Regulations). This provides for the designation and protection of 'European Sites' (SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites, including proposed or potential European Sites) and the protection of 'European Protected Species'.

The key UK legislation relating to nature conservation is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (W&C Act). This Act is supplemented, *inter alia*, by provision in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act). Additional species and habitat-specific UK legislation includes the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

The Environment Act sets out how the UK will maintain environmental standards following leaving of the EU. The Bill builds on the vision of the 25 Year Environment Plan, with the ambition from the government to leave the environment in a better state than it was when inherited.

The DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been implemented to work alongside the Environment Act. This tool calculates potential biodiversity impacts as a result of development and identifies mitigation and compensation requirements to ensure no net loss of biodiversity. In addition, it identifies measures that can be implemented in order to meet biodiversity gain as a result of development.

The NPPF 2024 has been published to provide further planning guidance. Wildlife, biodiversity and ecological networks are referred to in Section 15 *Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*. The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity value, recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services and minimising impacts on and provide net gains for biodiversity. Further guidance is provided within Government Circular 06/05: *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System*.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act and are a material consideration in planning decisions. Planners require relevant, up-to-date information from ecological surveys in order to assess the effects of a proposed development on biodiversity as Councils have a statutory obligation under Section 40 of the NERC Act to consider biodiversity conservation in the determination of planning applications.

Background information about the lists of priority habitats and species (Species and Habitats of Principal Importance) can be found within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Although this has been succeeded by the *UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework*, many UK BAP tools are still relevant. BAPs identify habitats and species of nature conservation priority on a UK (UK BAP) and Local (LBAP) scale. Most BAP priority habitats and species have Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs) and there are also 'grouped action plans' for groups of related species with similar conservation requirements. The LBAP relating to this site is the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan.

Badgers

The legislation protecting badgers in England and Wales is the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, it is an offence *inter alia* to:

- Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger, or to attempt to do so
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger
- Intentionally or recklessly interfere with a badger sett by (a) damaging a sett or any part of one; (b) destroying a sett; (c) obstructing access to or any entrance of a sett; (d) causing a dog to enter a sett; or (e) disturbing a badger when it is occupying a sett

The Badger Act 1992 defines a badger's sett as '*any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger.*'

Natural England can issue licences to enable works to continue that may affect a protected species. In relation to disturbance of badgers, Natural England (2009) gives guidelines on disturbance which will require a licence. These include: '*using very heavy machinery (generally tracked vehicles) within 30 metres of any entrance to an active sett; using lighter machinery (generally wheeled vehicles), particularly for any digging operation, within 20 metres; light work such as hand-digging or scrub clearance within 10 metres. There are some activities which may cause disturbance at greater distances (such as using explosives or pile driving) and these should be given individual consideration.*'

Bats

In England, all bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the W&C Act 1981 (as amended). Several species of bat are also highlighted as Priority Species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and within the Local BAP.

Under the current legislation, as summarised on pages 9 and 10 of the *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition* (2024), it is a criminal offence to:

'Kill, capture, injure or take a wild bat:

- *To damage or destroy a place used by a bat for breeding or resting. All offences of this nature are identified within the Habitats Regulations. This offence is unique in that it can be committed accidentally. No element of intentional, reckless or deliberate action needs to be evidenced.*
- *To disturb bats anywhere (roosts, flight lines or foraging areas) if levels of disturbance can be shown to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, to rear or nurture their young, to hibernate or migrate or to affect significantly local distribution or abundance*
- *To intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat, whilst it is occupying a place of shelter or protection*
- *To intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place used by a bat for shelter or protection*
- *To be in possession or control of a bat alive or dead (or any part of a bat or anything derived from a bat, although bat droppings are generally considered to be acceptable), or to transport a bat, to sell or exchange a bat or to offer to sell or exchange a bat taken from the wild.'*

Breeding birds

Breeding birds are protected under the W&C Act 1981, which makes it an offence to:

- *Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built*
- *Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird*
- *Have in one's possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive, or any part of a wild bird (including eggs), which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954*
- *Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird*

Invasive species

It is an offence under Section 14(2) of the W&C Act 1981 to '*plant or otherwise cause to grow*' in the wild any plant in Schedule 9 Part II.

It is a criminal offence to intentionally, wilfully kill, injure or take any of the aforementioned protected species or to destroy or disturb its habitat.

Local policy

The site lies within Knowsley and is covered by The Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted January 2016). Policies CS2 (Principal 4) and CS8 aim to ensure biodiversity is retained and enhanced during development and biodiversity protection is referenced in other policies including CS19, CS21, CS23 and CS24. These policies have been taken into account when preparing this report.

Appendix 5

Site Name: Carr Lane Lake, Prescott

Site Area: 1.02 hectares

National Grid Reference: SJ460921

Date of Designation: 1995

District: Knowsley

Date of Last Revision: July 2003

SBI Number: 11

CITATION: A wetland with a large area of open water which is unusual in Knowsley. Water is fished.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Sites of Biological Interest. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1; H2; H3; H4.	Rarity Diversity Nearness Isolation	1 Priority BAP Habitats, 1 regionally important. 11 habitats recorded. 19 sites within 1 Km.
PLANTS		
SP1; SP2; SP3; SP4.	Rarity Diversity Naturalness Nationally Rare	1 WCA Schedule 8; 1 species of conservation concern; 2 regionally important; 5 locally rare species. Total of 117 plant species. One of 34 sites with 100 or more species. 89.7% of the plants are native to North Merseyside. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered. --
ANIMALS		
General SP5; Birds B1; B2; B3; B4; B5. Dragonflies Od1; Od2. Butterflies Bf1; Bf2. Amphibians A1; A2. Reptiles R2; Bats Bat1; Bat2. Mammals Mam1.	Rare/priority Non-breeding population Breeding population Regional rare/scare Breeding assemblage Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage. Breeding Regional rare/scarse Region rare breeding Breeding assemblage Rarity Exceptional populations Exceptional population Roost Assemblage Breeding	-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Site of Biological Interest.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to July 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Carr Lane Lake, Prescott

Status of features of nature conservation importance

Habitats

1 Priority BAP habitats Standing water

**1 Regionally Important Habitats
(North West Biodiversity Audit)** Standing water

Plants

**1 Wildlife and Countryside Act - Schedule 8
species** English Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

1 Species of Conservation Concern English Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

**2 Regionally important species
(North West Biodiversity Audit)** English Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
Blunt-flowered Rush (*Juncus subnodulosus*)

5 Locally rare species Nodding Bur-marigold (*Bidens cernua*)
Blunt-flowered Rush (*Juncus subnodulosus*)
Plicate Sweet-grass (*Glyceria notata*)
Almond willow (*Salix triandra*)
Unbranched bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*)

SBI 11. Carr Lane Lake Prescott
Scale 1:5000

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Environmental
Advisory Service



Site Name: Grassland, west of Seth Powell Way, Huyton

Site Area: 3.2 hectares

National Grid Reference: SJ433925

Date of Designation: 2003

District: Knowsley

Date of Last Revision: July 2003

SBI Number: 83

CITATION: A neutral grassland recently created by Landlife with high plant diversity. Invertebrate interests are increasing as the site develops.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Sites of Biological Interest. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1; H2; H3; H4.	Rarity Diversity Nearness Isolation	1 Priority BAP Habitats, 1 regionally important. 5 habitats recorded. 10 sites within 1 Km.
PLANTS		
SP1; SP2; SP3; SP4.	Rarity Diversity Naturalness Nationally Rare	1 regionally important; 19 locally rare species. Total of 131 plant species. One of 34 sites with 100 or more species. 85.5% of the plants are native to North Merseyside. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered. --
ANIMALS		
General SP5; Birds B1; B2; B3; B4; B5. Dragonflies Od1; Od2. Butterflies Bf1; Bf2. Amphibians A1; A2. Reptiles R2; Bats Bat1; Bat2. Mammals Mam1.	Rare/priority Non-breeding population Breeding population Regional rare/scare Breeding assemblage Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage. Breeding Regional rare/scarse Region rare breeding Breeding assemblage Rarity Exceptional populations Exceptional population Roost Assemblage Breeding	-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Site of Biological Interest.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to July 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Status of features of nature conservation importance

Habitats

1 Priority BAP habitats Unimproved neutral grassland

1 Regionally Important Habitats Unimproved neutral grassland

Plants

1 Regionally important species Burnet rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*)

21 Locally rare species

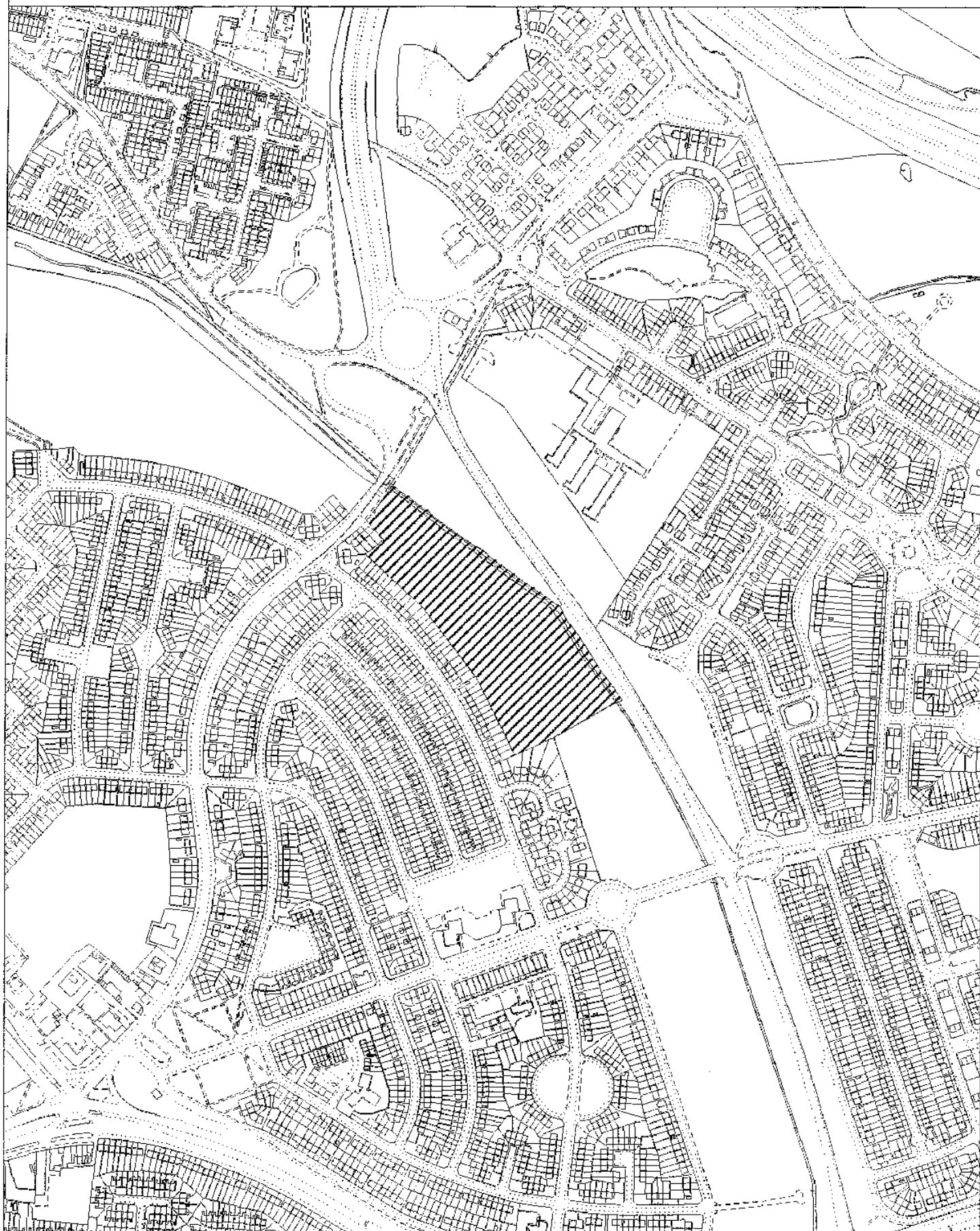
- Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*)
- Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*)
- Horse-radish (*Armoracia rusticana*)
- Carnation sedge (*Carex panicea*)
- Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)
- Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
- Spotted orchid hybrid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia* x *praetermissa*)
- An eyebright (*Euphrasia nemorosa*)
- Meadow crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*)
- Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)
- Rough hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*)
- Italian rye-grass (*Lolium multiflorum*)
- Garden lupin (*Lupinus polyphyllus*)
- Ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)
- Tall melilot (*Melilotus altissimus*)
- Red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*)
- Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*)
- Grey willow subspecies (*Salix cinerea* Ssp. *oleifolia*)
- Osier (*Salix viminalis*)
- Salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*)
- Devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)
- Squirreltail Fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*)

**SBI 83. Grassland, west of
Seth Powell Way
Scale 1:5000**

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Advisory Service



Date of Last Revision: July 2003 ***SBI Number:*** 81

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Sites of Biological Interest. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Version 2

Status of features of nature conservation importance PROVISIONAL LISTHabitats

3 Priority BAP Habitats	B21 - Neutral grassland: unimproved F11 – Swamp single sp. dominant G11 - Standing water: eutrophic
3 regionally important	B21 - Neutral grassland: unimproved G1 - Standing water A131 - Woodland: mixed, semi-natural
2 locally uncommon	A131 - Woodland: mixed, semi-natural G23 - Running water: oligotrophic
19 habitats recorded	<i>A111 - Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural</i> <i>A112 - Woodland: broadleaved, plantation</i> <i>A131 - Woodland: mixed, semi-natural</i> <i>A132 - Woodland: mixed, plantation</i> <i>A21 - Scrub: dense/continuous</i> <i>A31 - Parkland and scattered trees: broadleaved</i> B21 - Neutral grassland: unimproved <i>B22 - Neutral grassland: semi-improved</i> <i>C12 - Bracken: scattered</i> <i>C31 - Other tall herb and fern: tall ruderal</i> G1 - Standing water <i>G11 - Standing water: eutrophic</i> <i>G23 - Running water: oligotrophic</i> <i>F1 - Swamp</i> <i>F21 - Marginal/inundation: marginal</i> G11 - Standing water: eutrophic G23 - Running water: oligotrophic <i>J12 - Cultivated/disturbed land: amenity grassland</i> <i>J3 - Built-up areas</i>

Plants

1 WCA schedule 8	Hyacinthoides non-scripta
1 Species of conservation concern	Hyacinthoides non-scripta
5 regionally important	Hyacinthoides non-scripta Potamogeton polygonifolius Symphytum officinale Frangula alnus Ceratophyllum demersum
19 locally rare species	Ballota nigra Ceratodon purpureus Ceratophyllum demersum Chelidonium majus Ditrichum heteromallum Galium uliginosum Lunularia cruciata Malus sylvestris Myosotis arvensis Polytrichum formosum Potamogeton polygonifolius Tilia cordata Tortula muralis Carex paniculata

FINAL DRAFT

Oreopteris limbosperma
Typha angustifolia
Veronica hederifolia
Plangiothecium denticulatum
Veronica hederifolia

Total of 187 plant species

Animals

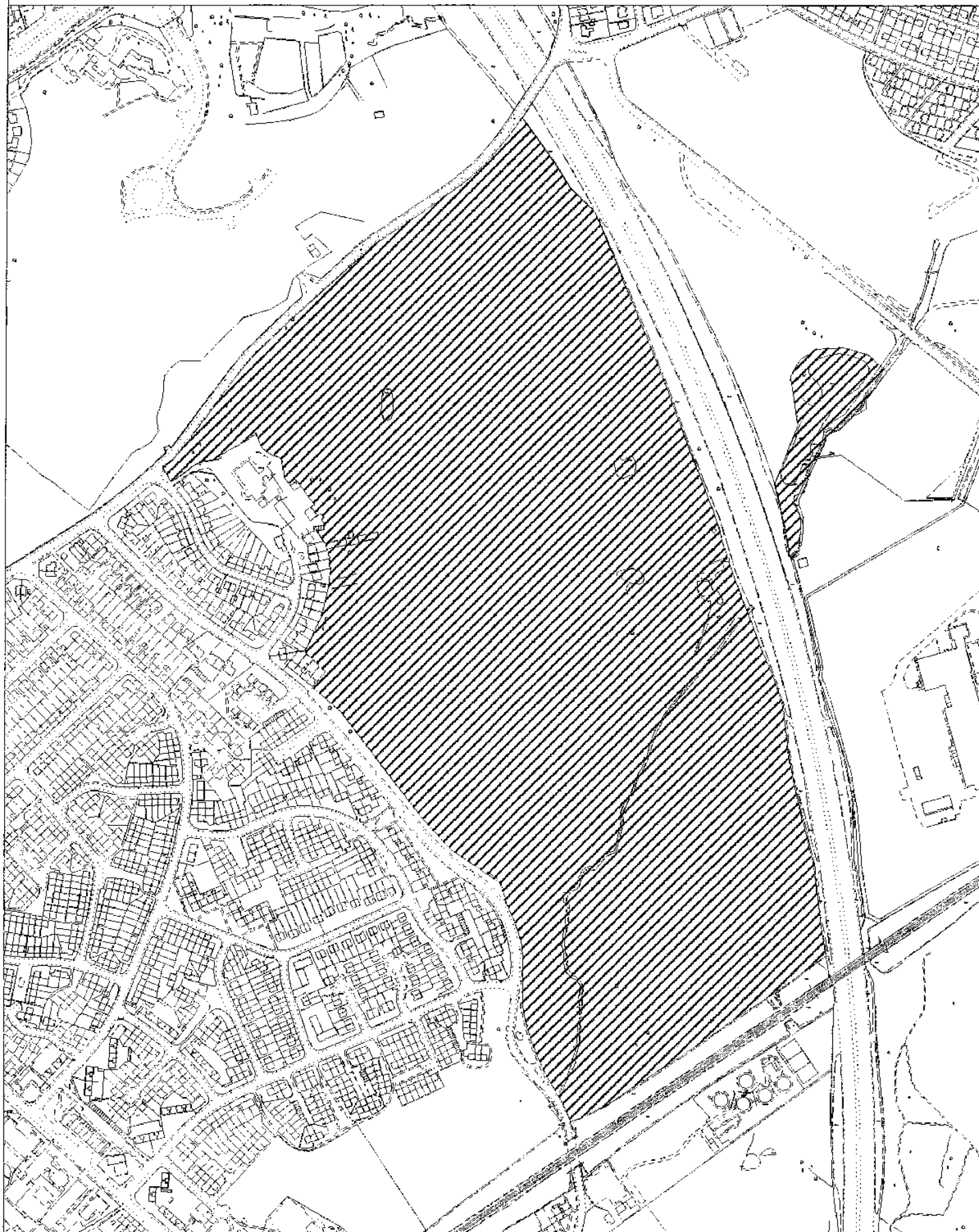
Water vole

**SBI 81. Huyton and Prescott
Golf Club
Scale 1:5000**

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Environmental
Advisory Service



Site Name: Huyton Lane Wetland, Huyton

Site Area: 4.28 hectares

National Grid Reference: SJ448912

Date of Designation: 1995

District: Knowsley

Date of Last Revision: July 2003

SBI Number: 12

CITATION: A large area of predominantly neutral marsh with a smaller area of acidic marsh. Other habitats present include: ditch; the River Alt; tree and shrub planting; dry neutral grassland.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Sites of Biological Interest. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1;	Rarity	3 Priority BAP Habitats, 3 regionally important.
H2;	Diversity	14 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	5 sites within 1 Km.
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	7 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 141 plant species. One of 34 sites with 100 or more species.
SP3;	Naturalness	95% of the plants are native to North Merseyside. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	--
ANIMALS		
General SP5;	Rare/priority	--
Birds		
B1;	Non-breeding population	--
B2;	Breeding population	--
B3;	Regional rare/scare	--
B4;	Breeding assemblage	--
B5.	Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage.	--
Dragonflies		
Od1;	Breeding	--
Od2.	Regional rare/scarc	--
Butterflies		
Bf1;	Region rare breeding	--
Bf2.	Breeding assemblage	--
Amphibians		
A1;	Rarity	--
A2.	Exceptional populations	--
Reptiles		
R2;	Exceptional population	--
Bats		
Bat1;	Roost	--
Bat2.	Assemblage	--
Mammals		
Mam1.	Breeding	--

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Site of Biological Interest.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to July 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Status of features of nature conservation importance for Huyton Lane Wetland

Habitats

3 Biodiversity Action Plan habitat

Unimproved neutral grassland
Marshy grassland
Unimproved acid grassland

2 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Unimproved neutral grassland
Marshy grassland
Unimproved acid grassland

Plants

7 Locally rare species

Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*)
Bearded Couch (*Elymus caninus*)
Water horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*)
Small sweet-grass (*Glyceria declinata*)
Corn spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*)
Devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)
Common valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*)

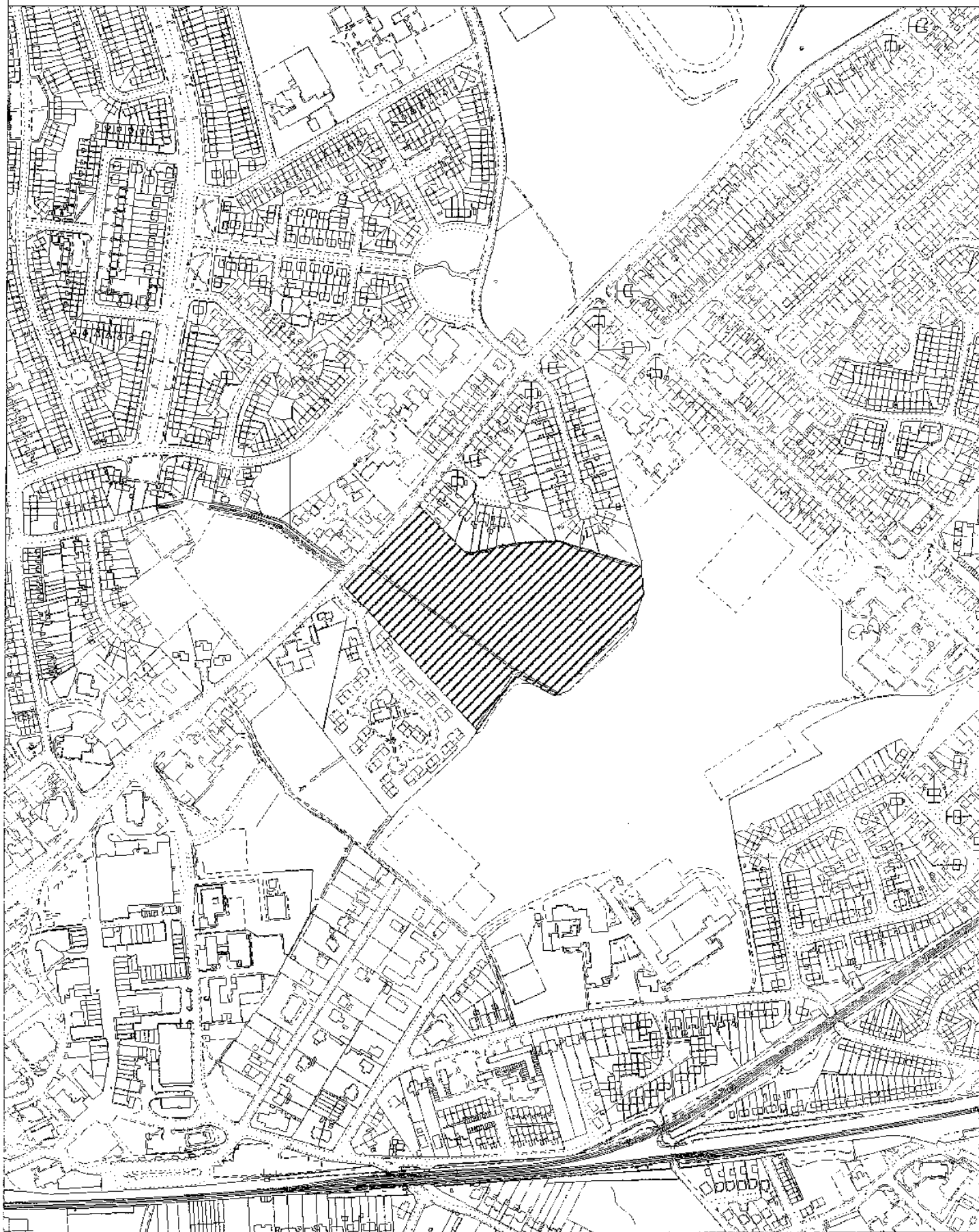
SBI 12. Huyton Lane Wetland
Scale 1:5000

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Compiled by EAS 30th August 2003



Environmental
Advisory Service



Site name: Knowsley Brook, Gilmoss

Site area: 0.05ha

National grid reference: SJ400974 to SJ407962

Date of designation: 2009

District: Liverpool

Date of last revision: March 2010

Local Wildlife Site number: 5

Citation:

The Knowsley Brook from the Knowsley boundary to the East Lancashire Road supports a small population of Water Voles.

Appraisal:

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1	Rarity	--
H2	Diversity	2 habitats recorded
H3	Nearness	--
H4	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
Sp1	Rarity	--
Sp2	Diversity	--
Sp3	Naturalness	--
Sp4	Nationally rare	--
ANIMALS		
<u>General</u>		
Sp5	Rare/priority	--
<u>Birds</u>		
B1	Non-breeding population	--
B2	Breeding population	--
B3	Regionally rare/scarce	--
B4	Breeding assemblage	--
B5	Assemblage breeding, wintering, passage	--
<u>Dragonflies</u>		
Od1	Breeding	--
Od2	Regionally rare/scarce	-
<u>Butterflies</u>		
Bf1	Regionally rare/scarce	--
Bf2	Breeding assemblage	
<u>Amphibians</u>		
A1	Rarity	--
A2	Exceptional population	--
<u>Reptiles</u>		
R1	Population of native species	--
R2	Exceptional population	--
<u>Bats</u>		
Bat1	Roost	--
Bat2	Assemblage	--
<u>Mammals</u>		
M1	Breeding	Water Vole

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Local Wildlife Site.

NOTE: Validated data from 1995 to 2008 have been used in his assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Status of features of nature conservation importance

ANIMALS

1 Priority BAP Species

Water Vole

Site Name: Knowsley Park

Site Area: 1182.5 hectares

National Grid Reference: SJ455950

Date of Designation: 1995 (part)

District: Knowsley

Date of Last Revision: July 2003

SBI Number: 40

CITATION: Ancient parkland and estate on a mix of acidic(peat) and neutral soils with sandstone exposures along the brooks. Much coniferous planting has taken place although several of the woodlands contain plants indicative of ancient semi-natural woodland. Other habitats include dams with open water, acidic grassland, remnant heath and mire. The Park also has populations of bats and other protected species.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Sites of Biological Interest. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1; H2; H3; H4.	Rarity Diversity Nearness Isolation	5 Priority BAP habitats; 7 regionally important; 2 locally uncommon. 32 habitats recorded. More than 15 sites within 1 Km. --
PLANTS		
SP1; SP2; SP3; SP4.	Rarity Diversity Naturalness Nationally Rare	1 Species of conservation concern; 4 regionally important; 30 locally rare species. Total of 234 plant species. One of 34 sites with 100 or more species. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered. --
ANIMALS		
General SP5; Birds B1; B2; B3; B4; B5. Dragonflies Od1; Od2. Butterflies Bf1; Bf2. Amphibians A1; A2. Reptiles R2; Bats Bat1; Bat2. Mammals Mam1.	Rare/priority Non-breeding population Breeding population Regional rare/scare Breeding assemblage Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage. Breeding Regional rare/scarce Region rare breeding Breeding assemblage Rarity Exceptional populations Exceptional population Roost Assemblage Breeding	-- -- -- Guideline met. Guideline met – woodland, open water. -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- Guideline met – Water Voles; Red Squirrels.

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Site of Biological Interest.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to July 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Status of features of nature conservation importance PROVISIONAL LIST

Habitats

7 regionally important.	B1.1 Acidic Grassland Unimproved B2.1 Neutral Grassland Unimproved B5 Marshy Grassland E3.2 Basin Mire F1.2 Swamp tall fen vegetation G1 Standing Water I1.4.1 Other exposure acid/neutral
5 Priority BAP Habitats	B1.1 Acidic Grassland unimproved B2.1 Neutral Grassland Unimproved E3.2 Basin Mire F1.1 Swamp single sp. dominant F1.2 Swamp tall fen vegetation
2 Locally uncommon	E2.1 Flush/spring acid/ neutral E3.2 Basin Mire
32 habitats recorded	

Plants

1 species of conservation concern	Hyacinthoides non-scripta
4 regionally important	Carex pseudocyperus Hyacinthoides non-scripta Myosoton aquaticum Viola palustris
30 locally rare species	Blasia pusilla Carex pendula Carex pilulifera Chaenorhinum majus Circaea lutetiana Conocephalum conicum Dipsacus fullonum Dryopteris affinis Equisetum sylvaticum Euphrasia nemorosa Galium saxatile Hypericum tetrapterum Isopterygium elegans Juncus bulbosus Lysimachia nemorum Myosoton aquaticum Oreopteris limbosperma Pellia epiphylla Potentilla palustris Rhizomnium punctatum Salix repens Scrophularia auriculata Sherardia arvensis Sphagnum fimbriatum Sphagnum palustre Sphagnum recurvum var. mucronatum Symphoricarpos albus Veronica chamaedrys Veronica serpyllifolia Viola palustris

Total of 234 plant species

Mammals

Water voles, red squirrel

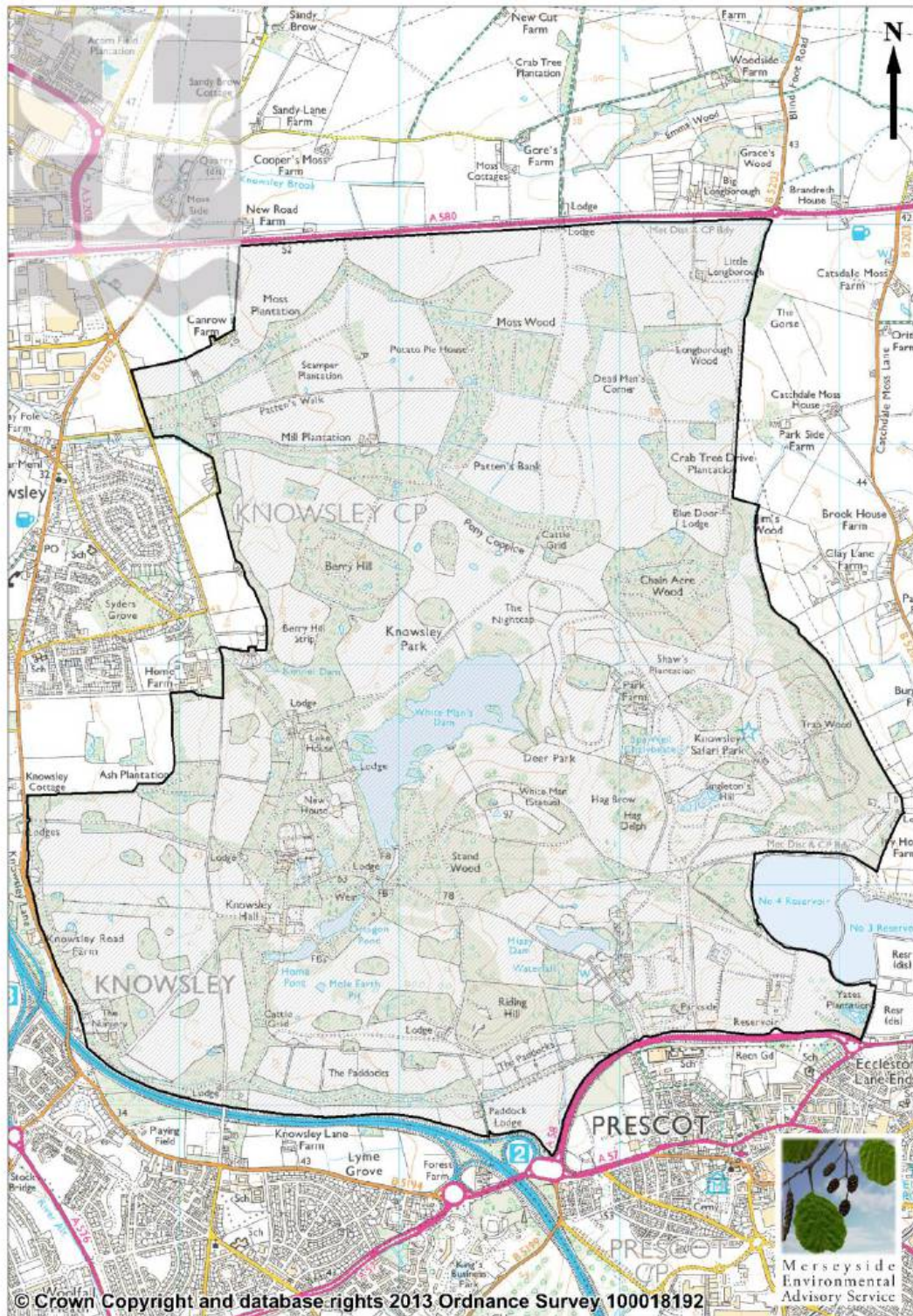
LWS 40. Knowsley Park

Scale 1:25,000

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Merseyside
Environmental
Advisory Service



Site Name: River Alt, Seth Powell Way, Huyton

Site Area: 1.13 hectares

National Grid Reference: SJ434924

Date of Designation: 2003

District: Knowsley

Date of Last Revision: July 2003

SBI Number: 78

CITATION: To be Completed.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Sites of Biological Interest. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1;	Rarity	--
H2;	Diversity	--
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	--
SP2;	Diversity	--
SP3;	Naturalness	Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	--
ANIMALS		
General SP5;	Rare/priority	--
Birds		
B1;	Non-breeding population	--
B2;	Breeding population	--
B3;	Regional rare/scare	--
B4;	Breeding assemblage	--
B5.	Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage.	--
Dragonflies		
Od1;	Breeding	--
Od2.	Regional rare/scarce	--
Butterflies		
Bf1;	Region rare breeding	--
Bf2.	Breeding assemblage	--
Amphibians		
A1;	Rarity	--
A2.	Exceptional populations	--
Reptiles		
R2;	Exceptional population	--
Bats		
Bat1;	Roost	--
Bat2.	Assemblage	--
Mammals		
Mam1.	Breeding	Guideline met – Water Vole.

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Site of Biological Interest.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to July 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

**SBI 78. River Alt, Seth Powell
Way
Scale 1:5000**

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Environmental
Advisory Service



Site Name: Stadt Moers Quadrant 2 and Visitor Centre, Whiston

Site Area: 1.56 hectares

National Grid Reference: SJ464913

Date of Designation: 2003

District: Knowsley

Date of Last Revision: July 2003

SBI Number: 44

CITATION: A small area of dense woodland with neutral grassland areas re-colonised on bare substrate.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Sites of Biological Interest. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1; H2; H3; H4.	Rarity Diversity Nearness Isolation	1 regionally important. 10 habitats recorded. -- --
PLANTS		
SP1; SP2; SP3; SP4.	Rarity Diversity Naturalness Nationally Rare	1 WCA Schedule 8; 1 species of conservation concern; 2 regionally important; 6 locally rare species. Total of 134 plant species. One of 34 sites with 100 or more species. 84.3% of the plants are native to North Merseyside. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered. --
ANIMALS		
General SP5; Birds B1; B2; B3; B4; B5. Dragonflies Od1; Od2. Butterflies Bf1; Bf2. Amphibians A1; A2. Reptiles R2; Bats Bat1; Bat2. Mammals Mam1.	Rare/priority Non-breeding population Breeding population Regional rare/scare Breeding assemblage Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage. Breeding Regional rare/scarc Region rare breeding Breeding assemblage Rarity Exceptional populations Exceptional population Roost Assemblage Breeding	-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Site of Biological Interest.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to July 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Site Name: Stadt Moers Quadrant 2 and Visitor Centre, Whiston

SBI Number: 44

Status of features of nature conservation importance PROVISIONAL LIST

Habitats

1 habitat of regional importance

Marshy Grassland (B5)

10 habitats recorded

A111 - Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
A112 - Woodland: broadleaved, plantation
A21 - Scrub: dense/continuous
A22 - Scrub: scattered
B22 - Neutral grassland: semi-improved
B5 - Marsh/marshy grassland
B6 - Poor semi-improved
C31 - Other tall herb and fern: tall ruderal
J12 - Cultivated/disturbed land: amenity grassland
J14 - Cultivated/disturbed land: introduced shrub

Plants

1 WCA Schedule 8

Hyacinthoides non-scripta (Bluebell)

1 species of conservation concern

Hyacinthoides non-scripta (Bluebell)

2 species of regional importance

Hyacinthoides non-scripta (Bluebell)
Symphytum officinale (Comfrey)

6 Locally rare species

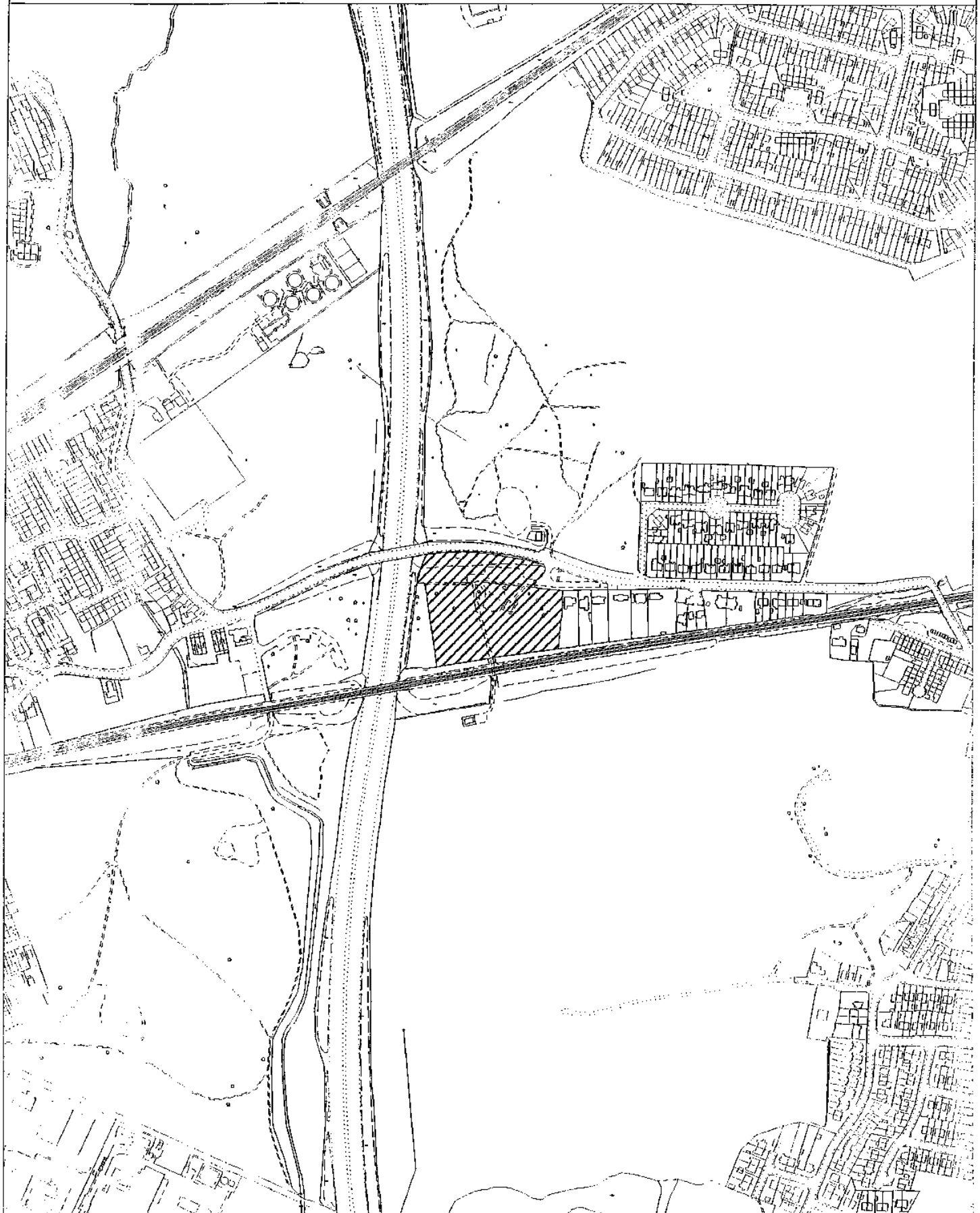
Aphanes arvensis (Parsley-piert)
Anagallis arvensis (Scarlet Pimpernel)
Euphorbia helioscopia (Sun Spurge)
Lathraea squamaria (Common Toothwort)
Primula vulgaris (Primrose)
Valerianella locusta (Cornsallad)

**SBI 44. Stadt Moers Q2 and
Visitor Centre, Whiston
Scale 1:5000**

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Environmental
Advisory Service



Status of features of nature conservation importance for Stadt Moers Q3, Whiston

Habitats

1 Biodiversity Action Plan habitat Unimproved neutral grassland

**1 Regionally important habitats
(North West Biodiversity Audit)** Unimproved neutral grassland

Plants

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

**1 Species of conservation concern
(UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species)** English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

**2 Regionally important species
(North West Biodiversity Audit)** English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
Burnet rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*)

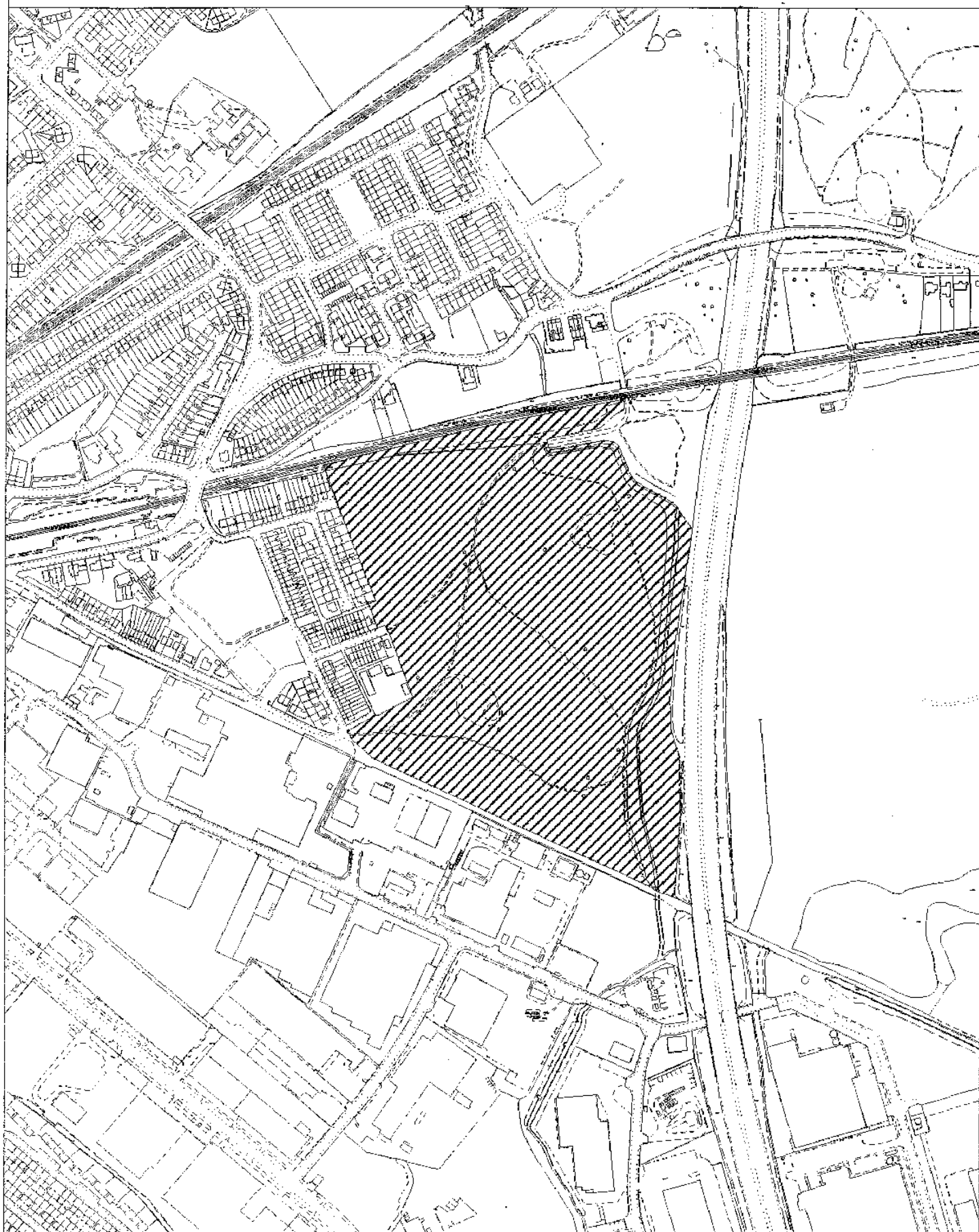
9 Locally rare species Pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*)
Kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*)
A moss (*Calliergon cuspidatum*)
Viper's-bugloss (*Echium vulgare*)
Rough hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*)
Lesser hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*)
Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*)
A moss (*Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*)
Burnet rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*)

SBI 82. Stadt Moers Q3, Huyton
Scale 1:5000

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Environmental
Advisory Service



Site Name: Stadt Moers Quadrant 4, Whiston

Site Area: 32.73 hectares

National Grid Reference: SJ462906

Date of Designation: 2003

District: Knowsley

Date of Last Revision: July 2003

SBI Number: 46

CITATION: A large area of semi-improved neutral grassland with areas of scrub and developing broadleaf woodland.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Sites of Biological Interest. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1; H2; H3; H4.	Rarity Diversity Nearness Isolation	1 Priority BAP Habitats, 2 regionally important. 8 habitats recorded. 16 sites within 1 Km.
PLANTS		
SP1; SP2; SP3; SP4.	Rarity Diversity Naturalness Nationally Rare	1 WCA Schedule 8; 1 species of conservation concern; 2 regionally important; 5 locally rare species. Total of 147 plant species. One of 34 sites with 100 or more species. 85.0% of the plants are native to North Merseyside. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered. --
ANIMALS		
General SP5; Birds B1; B2; B3; B4; B5. Dragonflies Od1; Od2. Butterflies Bf1; Bf2. Amphibians A1; A2. Reptiles R2; Bats Bat1; Bat2. Mammals Mam1.	Rare/priority Non-breeding population Breeding population Regional rare/scare Breeding assemblage Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage. Breeding Regional rare/scarse Region rare breeding Breeding assemblage Rarity Exceptional populations Exceptional population Roost Assemblage Breeding	-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Site of Biological Interest.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to July 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Status of features of nature conservation importance for Stadt Moers Q4, Whiston

Habitats

1 Biodiversity Action Plan habitat	Unimproved neutral grassland
2 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Unimproved neutral grassland Marshy grassland

Plants

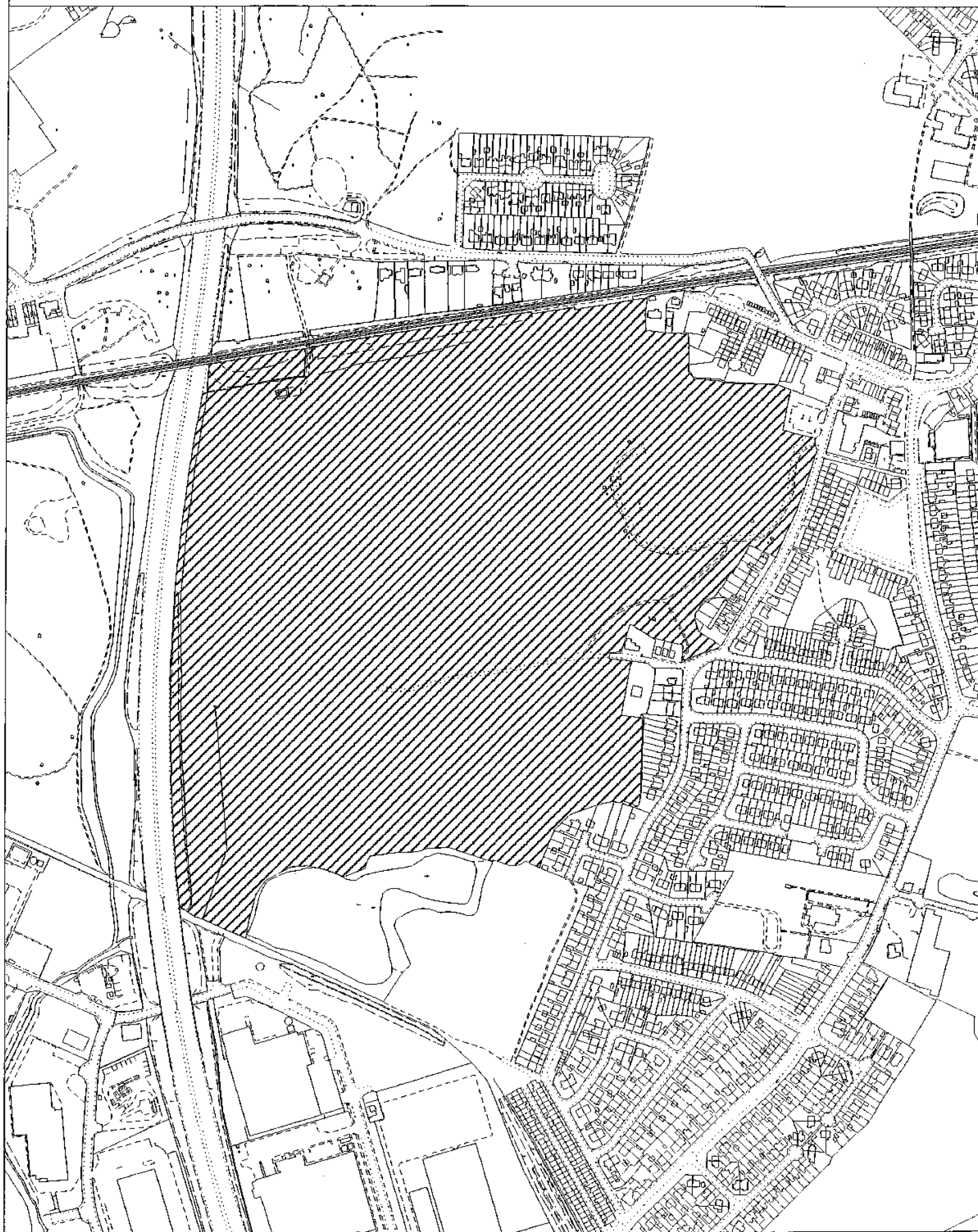
1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species	English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)
1 Species of conservation concern (UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species)	English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)
2 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)	English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>) Northern Marsh-orchid (<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>)
5 Locally rare species	Scarlet pimpernel (<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>) Northern Marsh-orchid (<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>) Bearded Couch (<i>Elymus caninus</i>) Common stork's-bill (<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>) Green Field-speedwell (<i>Veronica agrestis</i>)

SBI 46. Stadt Moers Q4, Whiston
Scale 1:5000

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Environmental
Advisory Service



Site Name: Ten Acre Pits, Huyton

Site Area: 1.4 hectares

National Grid Reference: SJ440899

Date of Designation: 2003

District: Knowsley

Date of Last Revision: February 2011

SBI Number: 65

CITATION: A mature broadleaf woodland with a dense canopy. A dense shrub layer in places with an improving ground flora.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Sites of Biological Interest. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1; H2; H3; H4.	Rarity Diversity Nearness Isolation	1 Priority BAP Habitats, 1 regionally important. 9 habitats recorded. 21 sites within 1 Km. --
PLANTS		
SP1; SP2; SP3; SP4.	Rarity Diversity Naturalness Nationally Rare	-- Total of 45 plant species. 80.0% of the plants are native to North Merseyside. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered. --
ANIMALS		
General SP5; Birds B1; B2; B3; B4; B5. Dragonflies Od1; Od2. Butterflies Bf1; Bf2. Amphibians A1; A2. Reptiles R2; Bats Bat1; Bat2. Mammals Mam1.	Rare/priority Non-breeding population Breeding population Regional rare/scare Breeding assemblage Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage. Breeding Regional rare/scarce Region rare breeding Breeding assemblage Rarity Exceptional populations Exceptional population Roost Assemblage Breeding	-- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Site of Biological Interest.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to July 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Status of features of nature conservation importance

Habitats

4 Priority BAP habitats

Acid unimproved grassland

**4 Regionally Important habitats
(North West Biodiversity Audit)**

Broadleaved semi-natural woodlands

SUPERSEDED

Acid grassland listed in error - 22/02/11

ALL INFORMATION CHECKED AND UPDATED – 22/02/11

Status of features of nature conservation importance

Habitats

4 Priority BAP habitats

Neutral unimproved grassland

**4 Regionally Important habitats
(North West Biodiversity Audit)**

Broadleaved semi-natural woodlands

Status of features of nature conservation importance PROVISIONAL LIST

<u>Habitats</u>	
1 Priority BAP habitat	B11 - Acid grassland: unimproved
1 habitat of regional importance	B11 - Acid grassland: unimproved
9 habitats recorded	A111 - Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural A112 - Woodland: broadleaved, plantation A21 - Scrub: dense/continuous A31 - Parkland and scattered trees: broadleaved B11 - Acid grassland: unimproved C31 - Other tall herb and fern: tall ruderal J12 - Cultivated/disturbed land: amenity grassland J222 - Boundaries: defunct hedge, species-poor J25 - Boundaries: wall

SBI 65. Ten Acre Pits, Huyton.
Scale 1:5000

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Environmental
Advisory Service



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