



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



SYMMETRY PARK MERSEYSIDE

WIDNES

BLUEBELL SURVEY - PHASE 2

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G7367.057 – Bluebell Survey and Translocation Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 Land south of the M62, Widnes known as Symmetry Park Merseyside is the subject of development proposals for which are divided between approximately 25.45ha for industrial and logistics development and 25.39ha proposed for use as a Country Park. The Reserved Matters 1 application has now been granted planning approval.
- 1.2 The site is located in Widnes, Prescot (approximate central grid reference SJ4750 8930) immediately south of the M62 motorway and east of Junction 6 and the M57 motorway. The site is also bounded to the east by Fox's Bank Lane and to the south by the A5080 (Cronton Road).

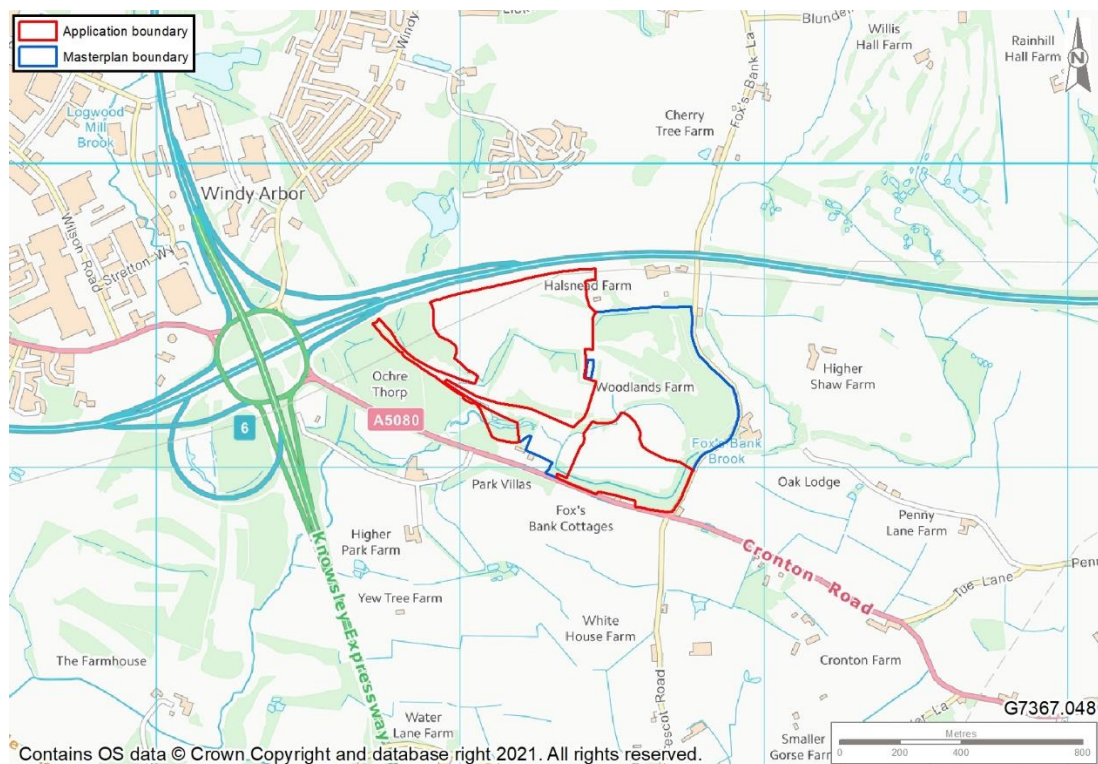


Figure 1 Site location and local context

- 1.3 It should be noted that this report is only applicable for the Reserved Matters 1 application boundary as shown in Figure 1 above. TEP Report 7367.023 provides details of the bluebell survey and translocation approach for the Phase 1 area.

Purpose

- 1.4 This document looks to provide all information necessary to undertake the translocation of native bluebell on the site, following the Bluebell Translocation Method Statement (see Chapter 9 of TEP report: 7367.024 Symmetry Park Merseyside Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy, 2021).

Site Context

- 1.5 Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, plantation broad-leaved woodland, scrub/tree regeneration over grassland are dominant habitats within the site. A variety of habitats including marshy grassland, swamp, scrub, reed and bare ground are also present. The topography of the site is undulating in places.

2.0 METHODS

- 2.1 Following the identification of native bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* during the Phase 1 habitat survey in 2020 when bluebell were in full flower, a detailed bluebell survey was undertaken in March 2023 in order to confirm the detailed distribution of bluebell locations in the areas identified for site clearance within the Reserved Matters 1 area. This survey mapped the specific locations of clumps of native bluebell and identified those that would be suitable for translocation to another part of the site.
- 2.2 Sites for translocation were also identified during the March 2023 survey, taking into account likelihood of future disturbance, soils and practicality.

3.0 RESULTS

Bluebell Locations

- 3.1 Locations of native bluebell within and adjacent to areas to be cleared in the Reserved Matters 1 site boundary were mapped, in line with the method set out in the Bluebell Translocation Method Statement (see Chapter 9 of the Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy (TEP report: 7367.024)).
- 3.2 Table 1 details the locations of native bluebells within areas to be cleared in the Reserved Matters 1 site boundary. The locations of these stands are mapped on the Bluebell Survey and Translocation Map (Drawing G7367.057).
- 3.3 One extensive area of native bluebells was identified in semi-natural broad-leaved woodland in the west of the site.

Potential Translocation Sites

- 3.4 The translocation sites which have been identified are shown in Drawing G7367.057 and described in Table 2.
- 3.5 These have been identified on the basis of ease of access for a small excavator, ease of creation of the receptor pits for the bluebells which avoids damage to tree roots and absence of existing bluebell population.
- 3.6 In order to avoid transfer of sub-optimal soil types to other areas of the site, bluebells growing on former colliery spoil will be translocated to areas of colliery spoil on the eastern boundary of the retained semi-natural broad-leaved woodland to the south (translocation site A). Bluebells growing on woodland soils will be translocated to retained woodland along the northern boundary of the site, adjacent to Unit 1 (translocation site B).

Table 1 Native bluebell locations

Reference	Grid Reference	Location	Size of stand	Photo
Bluebells to be lost	SJ 4709 8931	Northern part of broad-leaved woodland in reserved matters 1 area to the west.	100x20m	
Bluebells to be retained	SJ 4715 8940	Southern part of broad-leaved woodland in reserved matters 1 area to the west.	80x25m	

Table 2: Potential translocation locations

Ref.	Grid Reference	Approx. Size of Area	Area Description	Photo
A	SJ 4711 8931	Several areas of varying size.	Areas of bare ground and disturbance within the old colliery spoil on eastern edge of the retained woodland.	 The top photograph shows a dense thicket of bare, tangled branches and some green foliage on a dark, disturbed ground. The bottom photograph shows a similar area with more green foliage and a visible path or clearing in the center.
B	SJ 4770 8951	10x5m	Retained strip of broad-leaved woodland with little ground flora, adjacent to access road on north of site between existing areas of native bluebells.	 The photograph shows a narrow strip of woodland with bare trees and a green fence in the foreground. The ground is covered with dry leaves and some green plants.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 This survey has identified a population of bluebells in semi-natural broad-leaved woodland in the west of the area to be cleared within the Reserved Matters 1 boundary.
- 4.2 Bluebells in the northern half of this woodland will without mitigation, be lost as a result of site clearance and earthworks. Mitigation entails translocation of these bluebells to the translocation sites which have been identified; bluebells on colliery spoil being translocated to site A and those on woodland soils being translocated to site B. Translocation should follow the method set out in Chapter 9 of the Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy (TEP report: 7367.024).
- 4.3 Ideally these works will be undertaken after bluebells have set seed but while the plants are still visible above ground (beginning of June to early July). However, it is possible to translocate bulbs at other times of the year, including spring, and into autumn (September/October) when ground conditions are suitable. Bulbs should not be translocated in freezing conditions.

DRAWINGS

G7367.057 – Bluebell Survey and Translocation Plan



KEY

- Site boundary
- Land in TSL control
- Translocation area

Tree clearance

- Extent of tree retention and root protection area
- Extent of proposed tree clearance

Bluebell clearance

- Extent of bluebell area which will be lost
- Extent of bluebell area which will be retained

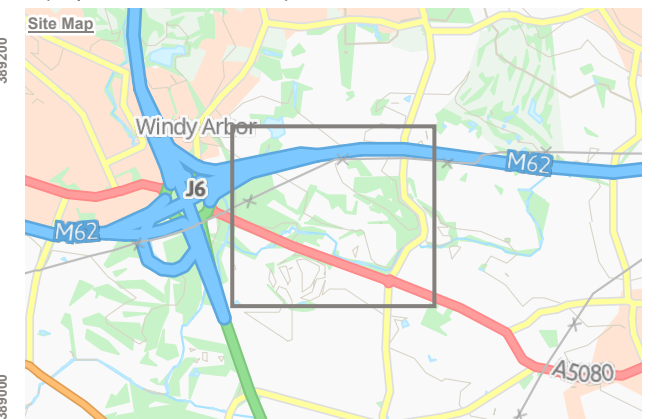
Note:

Based on drawing 18128_F0112[D] Tree Clearance Proposal provided by client.



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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Bluebell Survey and Translocation

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Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AR	CB	AP	1:4,500 @ A3	28/03/2023



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