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# Alt Bridge School, Wellcroft Road, Huyton, Liverpool

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL  
DAYTIME BUILDING INSPECTION

*Knowsley Council*

**P.2141.24**  
March 2025

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## Executive Summary

Ascerta has been instructed by **Knowsley Council** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Daytime Building Inspection (DBI) at Alt Bridge School, Wellcroft Road, Huyton, Liverpool, L36 7TA (hereafter referred to as **the site**).

The PEA and DBI for bats comprised 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 (Zoi).

The site provides a habitat for nesting birds, small mammals and amphibians. 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.

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 was subject to an extended phase one habitat survey. During the survey and following a review of historical species records, it is considered that an impact on birds and small mammals is likely to 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 December 2026, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site
- Production and implementation of Hedgehog Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production and implementation of an Amphibian RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production of the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Metric Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity
- 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 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 PEA and DBI at the site. The site OS grid reference is SJ 44589 91924 and the What3Words reference is body.ship.learn. The extent of the site is displayed in photograph 1.1 below.



**Photograph 1.1: Extent of the site**

The habitats on site comprise a school that is set within a residential area to the north of Huyton. The school comprises buildings, amenity grassland, introduced shrub, scattered trees, bramble scrub and an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, that is currently used as forest school, with access walkways and car parking facilities.

The site was visited on 18 December 2024 by Liz Kenyon when a PEA, which includes an assessment of the potential for protected species to be using the site or surroundings, was carried out in accordance with *the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 2010). The report was prepared following methods detailed in the CIEEM *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland* (2018) and *Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing* (2017).

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.

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

## 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 PEA 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 CIEEM guidelines.

#### 3.1 Desk Study

A desk study was undertaken in December 2024 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.

**Table 3.1: Desk Study Data Information**

| Source                                                          | Date obtained    | Data obtained                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) | 9 December 2024  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory designated sites within 2km of the site</li> <li>Protected and notable habitats within 2km of the site</li> <li>European Protected Species Licenses (EPSLs) within 2km of the site</li> </ul> |
| Merseyside Biobank                                              | 19 December 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site</li> <li>Protected and notable species records within 2km of the site</li> </ul>                                                                  |
| North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan                       | 9 December 2024  | Additional protections afforded to species/habitat                                                                                                                                                                                             |

#### 3.2 Field Survey

A walkover survey of the site was conducted on 18 December by Liz Kenyon. 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, bats, red squirrels)
- 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).

#### PEA 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 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).

**Table 3.2: Suitability of trees for potential bat roost features**

| 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.                                     |

#### External inspection of the building

A daytime external inspection of the building(s) was carried out during the survey by a suitably experienced ecologist. The buildings were 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.

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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>None</b>                   | 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).                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Negligible<sup>a</sup></b> | 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Low</b>                    | 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 <sup>b</sup> 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 <sup>c</sup> ). | 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.<br><br>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.                                                                                                          |
| <b>Moderate</b>               | A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions <sup>b</sup> 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.<br><br>Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>High</b>                   | 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 <sup>b</sup> 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.<br><br>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 water courses and grazed parkland.<br><br>Site is close to and connected to known roosts. |

<sup>a</sup> 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).

<sup>b</sup> For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

<sup>c</sup> 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. 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 December. 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.

Access to carry out an internal inspection of the building was not available. Small gaps under tiles, between stonework and between roof lining could not be fully examined for the presence of bats. These access restrictions are considered within the report conclusions.

The absence of biological records does not necessarily mean the absence of species. This 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                                                              | Distance to proposed development |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Huyton and Prescott Golf Club Site of Biological Interest & Local Wildlife Site (SBI, LWS) | 744m east                        |
| Huyton Wood Wetland, Huyton (SBI, LWS)                                                     | 800m south                       |
| River Alt, Seth Powell Way, Huyton (SBI, LWS)                                              | 1.1km northwest                  |
| Stadt Moers Quadrant 4, Whiston (SBI)                                                      | 1.2km southeast                  |
| Grassland, west of Seth Powell Way, Huyton (SBI, LWS)                                      | 1.3km northwest                  |
| Carr Lane Lake, Prescott Site of Biological Interest (SBI, LWS)                            | 1.4km east                       |
| Stadt Moers Quadrant 3, Huyton (SBI, LWS)                                                  | 1.6km southeast                  |
| Stadt Moers Quadrant 2 and Visitor Centre, Whiston (SBI, LWS)                              | 1.8km east                       |
| Stadt Moers Q4 (LWS)                                                                       |                                  |
| Ten Acre Pits, Huyton (SBI, LWS)                                                           | 2km south                        |
| Knowsley Park (SBI, LWS)                                                                   | 2km north                        |

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 510m south.

Two areas of Priority Habitat Lowland Meadows were returned within 2km of the site, the closest being located 1.2km northwest.

#### Wetland

One area of Priority Habitat Lowland Fens was returned within 2km of the site, located 1.7km north.

#### Woodland

Numerous areas of Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland were returned within 2km of the site, the closest being located 330m east.

One area of Priority Habitat Traditional Orchard was returned within 2km of the site, located 1.5km northwest.

One area of Wood Pasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat was returned within 2km of the site, located 960m north.

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

- Lapwing
- Redshank

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

- Corn bunting
- Grey partridge
- Lapwing
- Snipe
- Tree sparrow
- Yellow wagtail

### Priority Species

Following a review of records held by Merseyside Biobank, several priority species that have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the proposed development have been identified. These include birds, bats, hedgehogs and amphibians. The species records are summarised below, and the detailed records held by Merseyside Biobank within 2km of the site are displayed within Appendix 5. Protected species legislation can be found within Appendix 4.

*No species records were returned by Merseyside Biobank within the site boundary.*

#### Birds

Numerous records were returned for bird species within 2km of the site. Species returned include dunnoek, lapwing, Skylark, willow tit and bullfinch, dated between 1990 and 2005. All species recorded within 2km are displayed within Appendix 5.

#### Bats

Merseyside Biobank returned 74 records for bats within the search area dated between 1983 and 2020. Bat species include soprano pipistrelle, pipistrelle species, bat species, noctule, brown long eared bat and myotis. The closest records date from 2022 for noctule, myotis sp. and brown long eared bat, approximately 1km north east of the site

#### Amphibians

Fifty-six records for amphibians were returned within 2km of the site. Species present include common toad, common frog and smooth newt. Eight of the records are for great crested newt, with the majority of the records relating to an area approximately 2km north of the site. The most recent record is dated from 2022 for a smooth newt approximately 1.9km southeast of the site.

#### Badgers

Two records for badgers were returned within 2km of the site. The closest of which was from a location approximately 2km north of the site. The second record is for badger fatality on the M62.

#### Other mammals

Numerous records for other mammals were returned within 2km of the site. Species include feral ferret, harvest mouse, polecat and red squirrel. Ninety-four records for hedgehog were also returned within 2km of the site dated between 1994 and 2022. Seven records for red squirrel were returned within the search area, for allocation approximately 2km north from the site.

#### European Protected Species Licences

There was one EPSL application within 2km of the site since 2018. EPSL applications are detailed below (distance and direction from site):

- 2018-38343-EPS-MIT for the destruction of a resting place of common pipistrelle. Start date: 01/01/2019, end date: 31/01/2022 (770m north).

## 4.2 Habitat Survey

A habitat survey was conducted on 18 December 2024 by Liz Kenyon for the site. 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). A list and a summary description of key habitats identified within the site is tabled below (see Table 4.3). Notes on the presence or potential presence of protected species are provided in Section 4.6. The Phase 1 Habitat map can be found in P.2141.24.E01 Phase One Habitat Survey, Appendix 1 and photographs within Appendix 3. The target notes and lists of species recorded during survey are presented in Appendix 2.

Weather conditions during the survey were mild (11°C), dry (4/8 cloud cover) with a F4 (Beaufort Scale) moderate breeze, therefore appropriate for this type of survey.

The site comprises an operational school set within a residential area to the north of Huyton. The school comprises buildings, areas of outside space, access walkways, car parking facilities and an area of forest school.

The site is bound by Longview Lane to the east and Wellcroft Road to the south, with Knowsley Central School to the west and an area of open space immediately north. In the immediate surrounding area lies residential dwellings and pockets of open space.

**Table 4.3: Habitats present on site including habitat alphanumeric code references from JNCC (2010)**

| Habitat description and JNCC codes                | Site description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hardstanding (J4)</b>                          | Hardstanding access pathways, carparking and outdoor recreational areas are present throughout the site with footpaths connecting the buildings. The areas comprise tarmac and paved walkways.<br><br>This habitat is displayed in photograph 2 within Appendix 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Building(s) (J3.6)</b>                         | Four buildings (B1–B4) are present within the site and provide the existing educational facilities within the site. The buildings will not be impacted within the works and will not be discussed in detail within this report.<br><br>The buildings are displayed within photograph 3 within Appendix 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Amenity grassland (J1.2)</b>                   | Areas of amenity grassland are present throughout the site, providing green space between the existing facilities and larger areas for recreational and educational needs.<br><br>A small wooden shed (TN3) is present to the west of the site.<br><br>The grassland is intensively managed by mowing regularly. The grass sward height is approximately 5cm. Red fescue, bent sp., annual meadow grass, Yorkshire fog are abundant with daisy and white clover frequent. Full species lists are detailed within Appendix 2. This habitat is shown in photographs 1 and 2 within Appendix 3. |
| <b>Dense/continuous scrub (A2.1)</b>              | Pockets of bramble scrub are present within the northwestern corner of the site. A woodpile (TN1) and two woodchip piles (TN2) are also present in the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Introduced shrub (J1.4)</b>                    | Areas of introduced shrubs / ornamental planting are present throughout the site within the formal landscaping to the southeastern sector of the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Semi-natural broadleaved woodland (A1.1.1)</b> | An area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland is present along the boundary within the western boundary of the site; the area is currently used as forest school facilities. Species present include silver birch, alder and ash, with holly.<br><br>This habitat is displayed in photograph 4 within Appendix 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Scattered trees (A3.1)</b>                     | Scattered trees line the northern site boundary and part of the southern site boundary. Trees are also present to the banks of pond P1 to the east of the site. Species present are predominantly willow, with holly and <i>Salix</i> sp. Scattered trees are also present around the building area to the central area of the site. This habitat is displayed in photograph 8 within Appendix 3.                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## 4.3 Protected and Notable Species

**Table 4.4: Habitat suitability for protected and notable species, including evidence, further survey information and reference to photographs/drawings where applicable.**

### Birds

#### Habitat suitability

The bramble scrub, semi-natural broadleaved woodland and scattered trees within the site provide suitable foraging and nesting opportunities for bird species.

The sites lies within an area for Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds; the amenity grassland area does provide some limited habitat for the species, however it is in close proximity to the existing classrooms and subject to a high level of human disturbance.

#### Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

During the survey, magpies were identified within the site.

#### Further survey required

For any vegetation removal (trees and bramble scrub), a nesting bird survey will be required (Section 5.2).

### Bats

#### Habitat suitability

The wooded area near to the site was assessed to provide **low** suitability for bats, with connectivity to the surrounding land use. 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. The trees were assessed to provide **no** suitability for roosting bats.

The bramble scrub, amenity grassland, semi-natural broadleaved woodland and scattered trees within the site provide good suitability for commuting and foraging bats, with 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.

#### Further survey required

No further surveys for bats are required.

### Badgers

#### Habitat suitability

The amenity grassland, bramble and semi-natural broadleaved woodland within the site provide very limited habitat for badgers and is subject to a high level of human disturbance, with more favourable habitat for badgers in the wider landscape.

#### Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

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

#### Further survey required

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

### Water voles

#### Habitat suitability

The site and adjacent areas provide no suitable habitat for water voles as it is predominantly hardstanding and buildings and is subject to a high level of human disturbance with very limited connectivity to suitable habitats in the wider landscape.

#### Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

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

#### Further survey required

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

## Otters

### Habitat suitability

The site and adjacent areas provide limited habitats for otter within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland; however, this area is subject to human disturbance through the Forest School with very limited connectivity to suitable habitats in the wider landscape.

### 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

One waterbody is present approximately 700m east of the site as mapped on Magic Maps.

The amenity grassland, area of refuge (woodpile TN1) and bramble scrub provided some habitat for amphibians.

### Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

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

### Further survey required

No further survey effort for amphibians will be required; however, RAMS should be implemented (see Section 5.2).

## Reptiles

### Habitat suitability

The habitats within the site do not offer suitability to support reptiles. Ecotones are not present within the site and the habitats are scattered across the site with no suitable connectivity. 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 reptiles will be required. Reptiles do not require consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further.

## Invertebrates

### Habitat suitability

The amenity grassland provides 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 amenity grassland, bramble scrub, woodpile (TN1) and semi-natural broadleaved woodland provide areas of refuge for small mammals, such as hedgehogs. Records of red squirrel are present within Knowsley Park (SBI, LWS), 2km north of the site, and Knowsley Park (SBI, LWS) sits within a red squirrel alert area. The trees and wooded area on site provide some limited habitat for red squirrel, however the connectivity for red squirrel is limited to suitable habitat within the wider area and to Knowsley Park (SBI, LWS).

### Species seen / evidence of presence / features identified

No evidence of hedgehogs, small mammals or red squirrels were identified within the site during the survey.

### Further survey required

No further survey effort of other small mammals and red squirrels will be required; however, 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 closest non-statutory site is Huyton and Prescot Golf Club (SBI, LWS), which lies over 500m from the site, and as there will be no change to the current use of the site, it is considered that there will be no impact on any non-statutory sites in the vicinity as a result of the proposals. The site does not lie within a relevant Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone.

#### Mitigation

The habitats on site comprise hardstanding, amenity grassland, introduced shrub, bramble scrub scattered trees and semi-natural broadleaved woodland. These habitats are considered to have an ecological value of **within the Zol** of the site or lower. The site contains no designated or priority habitats. Overall, the proposals are unlikely to adversely affect the ecological value of the area.

The production of the DEFRA Metric Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations is recommended to minimise impacts of biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity and the production of a Management Plan to ensure the long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around the new development site.

### 5.2 Protected and Notable Species Recommendations

#### Birds

The scattered trees, semi-natural broadleaved woodland and bramble scrub provide suitable habitat for nesting and foraging bird species. It is recommended that vegetation clearance 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 undertaken 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.

#### Amphibians

The site provides some terrestrial habitat for amphibians, and as these habitats are likely to be impacted by the proposals, it is therefore recommended, as the areas to be lost are small in size, that an **Amphibian RAMS Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species. The RAMS should include:

- Construction materials stored on pallets so as not to create an amphibian refuge area
- Existing refuge areas should be removed by hand so amphibians within are not harmed during their removal

#### Small mammals

The site provides limited habitat for small mammals within the amenity grassland, bramble scrub, woodpile (TN1) and semi-natural broadleaved woodland.

These habitats are likely to be impacted by the proposals, and therefore it is recommended that a **Hedgehog RAMS Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species. The RAMS should include:

- Construction materials stored on pallets so as not to create a hedgehog refuge area
- Existing refuge areas should be removed by hand so hedgehogs within are not harmed during their removal

To enable hedgehogs to continue to use the site, it is advised that gaps of at least 13cm by 13cm are left under any new fences to enable hedgehogs to roam freely within the area following development.

### 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, 32mm entrance hole box, house sparrow terrace, swift box), attached to or integrated within new buildings on site
- Provision of 2 bat features (e.g. Vivara bat bricks or '*bird brick houses*' bat boxes) integrated within new buildings

## 6. Conclusions

The site was subject to an extended phase one habitat survey. During the survey and following a review of historical species records, it is considered that an impact on birds, amphibians and small mammals are likely to 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 December 2026, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site
- Production and implementation of an Amphibian RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production and implementation of a Hedgehog RAMS to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works
- Production of the DEFRA Metric Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity
- 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 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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# Appendix 1



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Key

Survey area

Bramble scrub (A2.1)

Introduced shrub (J1.4)

Semi natural broadleaved woodland (A1.1.1)

Buildings (J3.6)

Hard standing (J4)

Amenity grassland (J1.2)

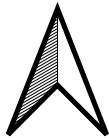
Scattered trees (A3.1)

Target note

TN1 Location of woodpile

TN2 Location of woodchip piles

TN3 Location of wooden shed



DO NOT SCALE.  
ALL COORDINATES RELATED TO LOCAL GRID.  
LOCATED TO NG BY BEST FIT TO DETAIL.  
EXTRACTED FROM OS DIGITAL DATA.

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 ASCERTA

LANDSCAPE | TREES | ECOLOGY

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CLIENT:  
Knowlsey Council

PROJECT:  
Alt Bridge School, Wellcroft Road,  
Huyton, Liverpool L36 7TA

DRAWING TITLE:  
Phase One Habitat Survey

|            |           |               |
|------------|-----------|---------------|
| SCALE:     | DRAWN BY: | DRAWING No:   |
| NTS@A3     | LK        | P.2141.24.E01 |
| DATE:      | CHKD BY:  | REV:          |
| 19/02/2025 | JK        | -             |

# Appendix 2

## Appendix 2: Species Lists and Target Notes

Table 1: Flora species

| English name        | Scientific name              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Annual meadow grass | <i>Poa annua</i>             |
| Alder               | <i>Alnus</i>                 |
| Ash                 | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>    |
| Bramble             | <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i> |
| Cherry              | <i>Prunus sp.</i>            |
| Common daisy        | <i>Bellis perennis</i>       |
| Creeping bent-grass | <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>  |
| Elder               | <i>Sambucus nigra</i>        |
| Field maple         | <i>Acer campestre</i>        |
| Holly               | <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>       |
| Red fescue          | <i>Festuca rubra</i>         |
| Rowan               | <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>      |
| Turkish hazel       | <i>Corylus colurna</i>       |
| White clover        | <i>Trifolium repens</i>      |
| Willow sp.          | <i>Salix sp.</i>             |

**Table 2: Target Notes**

| Target Note number | Description                |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| TN1                | Location of woodpile       |
| TN2                | Location of woodchip piles |
| TN3                | Location of wooden shed    |

# Appendix 3



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## Appendix 3: Photographs

**Table 3: Photographs of the site**



**Photograph 1:** Scattered tree and amenity grassland



**Photograph 2:** Amenity grassland, scattered trees and hardstanding



**Photograph 3:** Existing building



**Photograph 4:** Area of woodland to the western site boundary

# 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*

### **Great crested newt**

The great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) is fully protected under the W&C Act 1981 (as amended) and the Habitats Regulations, 2017. It is also a Species of Principal Importance. The legislation makes it an offence to:

- *Deliberately (or intentionally) kill, injure or capture (or take) a great crested newt, or great crested newt egg or eft*
- *Deliberately (or intentionally) damage or destroy any breeding site or resting place (i.e. pond, refuge, hibernaculum)*
- *Deliberately or recklessly obstruct access to any breeding site or resting place*
- *Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt, in particular disturbance which is likely to:*
  - *Impair the ability of the great crested newt to survive, breed, reproduce, or to rear or nurture young*
  - *Impair the ability of the great crested newt to hibernate or migrate, or significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of great crested newts*

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

**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*)



# **Biodiversity Information Report 15/12/2024**

**MBB reference: 4225-LTE  
Site: Alt Bridge School, Wellcroft Road, Bakers  
Green, Roby**

Your Ref: None supplied  
Your contact: Jack Kay

MBB Ref: 4225-LTE  
MBB Contact: Gabriel Dixon

Date: 15/12/2024

## Merseyside BioBank biodiversity information report

These are the results of your data request relating to **an area at Alt Bridge School, Wellcroft Road, Bakers Green, Roby defined by a buffer of 2000 metres around the centre of grid reference SJ4458591921.**

You have been supplied with the following:

- records of **protected** taxa that intersect the search area
- records of **BAP** taxa that intersect the search area
- records of **Red Listed** taxa that intersect the search area
- records of other '**notable**' taxa that intersect the search area
- records of WCA schedule 9 taxa (including '**invasive plants**') that intersect the search area
- a map showing the location of monad and tetrad references that overlap the search area
- a list of all **designated sites** that intersect your search area
- citations, where available, for intersecting Local Wildlife Sites
- a list of **other sites of interest** (e.g. Ancient Woodlands) that intersect your search area
- a map showing such sites
- a list of all **BAP habitats** which intersect the search area
- a map showing BAP habitats
- a summary of the area for all available mapped **Phase 1 and/or NVC habitats** found within 500m of your site
- a map showing such habitats

Merseyside BioBank (MBB) is the Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) for North Merseyside. We collect and collate biological and environmental information and make it available to people and organisations that have need to access such information in North Merseyside. We promote the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan and wider participation in biological recording and conservation through education, community involvement and by supporting the biological recording community of North Merseyside.

Merseyside BioBank is an information node of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and integrate records from our own databases with those of the NBN Atlas.

The product charge for this data request is not a charge for the data themselves, but rather a fixed rate that enables us to cover a portion of our running costs. Our annual income from data requests is something less than 20% of our total running costs.

## **Species records**

The biological records held by Merseyside BioBank come from a variety of sources; from large organisations to individual amateur naturalists. Merseyside BioBank operates as managers or custodians of these records but the individuals and groups, who provide their records free of charge, retain copyright on their data. Without their contribution, we would not be able to provide the records included in this report. Their efforts, expertise and goodwill make a substantial contribution to the protection of North Merseyside's biodiversity.

**You may only use the records in this document subject to our access terms and conditions which can be found in Appendix 1. Non-adherence to these terms and conditions will be viewed as a breach of contract, which may result in legal redress being sought.**

This report also integrates records from the NBN Atlas. Some NBN data providers give us permission to download and integrate their records at a higher resolution than available through public access in order to contribute to the protection of North Merseyside's biodiversity.

Details of the biological records summarised in the following tables, and the sources from which they are derived, are included in a spreadsheet sent alongside this report. Note that the date ranges in the summary tables (headed 'Dates') show the earliest and latest years for which records have been summarised for each taxon.

## Protected Species

'UK Protected species' are those taxa specifically identified by UK legislation including: Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The latter regulations enact the European Union's (EU) Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in the UK and supercede The Conservation Regulations 1994 and 2010. In our list of protected species, you may see designations that refer to schedules in the 1994 and 2010 regulations, but these remain unchanged under the 2017 regulations. Some protected species may not be legally disturbed unless you are in possession of an appropriate license. If you are in any doubt as to whether or not a license is required, you should contact Natural England.

The following tables detail the protected species that were recorded in the search area.

| Group              | Common Name             | Scientific Name                     | Records | Dates     | Designations                                            |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| amphibian          | Common Frog             | <i>Rana temporaria</i>              | 30      | 1996-2020 | WCA5/9.5a                                               |
|                    | Common Toad             | <i>Bufo bufo</i>                    | 4       | 1990-2015 | WCA5/9.5a                                               |
|                    | Great Crested Newt      | <i>Triturus cristatus</i>           | 8       | 1938-2011 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Smooth Newt             | <i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>         | 14      | 1990-2022 | WCA5/9.5a                                               |
| bird               | Barn Owl                | <i>Tyto alba</i>                    | 3       | 1998-2002 | WCA1i                                                   |
|                    | Greylag Goose           | <i>Anser anser</i>                  | 1       | 1998      | WCA1ii                                                  |
|                    | Kingfisher              | <i>Alcedo atthis</i>                | 2       | 1998-1999 | WCA1i                                                   |
|                    | Little Ringed Plover    | <i>Charadrius dubius</i>            | 3       | 1997-2001 | WCA1i                                                   |
| flowering plant    | Bluebell                | <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>    | 49      | 1981-2022 | WCA8                                                    |
|                    | Meadow Clary            | <i>Salvia pratensis</i>             | 1       | 2015      | WCA8                                                    |
| terrestrial mammal | Badger                  | <i>Meles meles</i>                  | 2       | 1982-2015 | PBA                                                     |
|                    | Bat                     | <i>Chiroptera</i>                   | 19      | 1983-2020 | HabRegs2                                                |
|                    | Brown Long-eared Bat    | <i>Plecotus auritus</i>             | 20      | 1984-2022 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Common Pipistrelle      | <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>    | 52      | 1991-2022 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Daubenton's Bat         | <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>           | 4       | 2014-2016 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Feral Ferret            | <i>Mustela putorius subsp. furo</i> | 1       | 1993      | HabRegs4                                                |
|                    | Myotis Bat species      | <i>Myotis</i>                       | 5       | 2014-2022 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Nathusius's Pipistrelle | <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>        | 4       | 2014-2015 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Natterer's Bat          | <i>Myotis nattereri</i>             | 3       | 2015      | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Noctule                 | <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>             | 16      | 1902-2022 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Nyctalus Bat species    | <i>Nyctalus</i>                     | 1       | 2014      | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Pipistrelle             | <i>Pipistrellus</i>                 | 17      | 1902-2016 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Polecat                 | <i>Mustela putorius</i>             | 1       | 1934      | HabRegs4                                                |
|                    | Red Squirrel            | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>             | 7       | 2008-2014 | WCA5/9.1k/l, WCA5/9.1t, WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4.a, WCA5/9.4b |
|                    | Soprano Pipistrelle     | <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>        | 37      | 2012-2021 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Water Vole              | <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>           | 21      | 1998-2010 | WCA5/9.4.a, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c                        |
|                    | Whiskered Bat           | <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>            | 2       | 2014-2015 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |
|                    | Whiskered/Brandt's Bat  | <i>Myotis mystacinus/brandtii</i>   | 2       | 2014-2016 | HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.4c               |

| Desig. Code | Desig. Name                                                                   | Designation Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WCA5/9.5a   | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5a)                   | Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.                                                                                                                                                 |
| HabRegs2    | The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 2)        | Schedule 2- European protected species of animals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| WCA5/9.4b   | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4b)                   | Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection.                                                                                                                                                           |
| WCA5/9.4c   | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5)                                | Animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| WCA1i       | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)                         | Birds and their young, for which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb at, on or near an active nest. They are protected by special penalties at all times.                                                                                                                       |
| WCA1ii      | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 2)                         | Birds afforded special protection during the close season but which may be killed or taken outside this period. They are protected by special penalties during the close season.                                                                                                                    |
| WCA8        | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 8)                                | Plants which are protected from intentional picking, uprooting or destruction (Section 13 1a); selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative) (Section 13 2a); advertising (any of these) for buying or selling (Section 13 2b). |
| PBA         | Protection of Badgers Act (1992)                                              | The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 protects badgers from taking, injuring, killing, cruel treatment, selling, possessing, marking and having their setts interfered with, subject to exceptions.                                                                                                    |
| HabRegs4    | The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 4)        | Schedule 4- Animals which may not be taken or killed in certain ways                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| WCA5/9.1k/l | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring)) | Section 9.1. Animals which are protected from intentional killing or injuring.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| WCA5/9.1t   | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (taking))           | Section 9.1 Animals which are protected from taking.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| WCA5/9.2    | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.2)                    | Section 9.2 Animals which are protected from being possessed or controlled (live or dead).                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| WCA5/9.4.a  | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4, subdivision a)     | Section 9.4 subdivision a - Animals which are protected from intentional damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection.                                                                                                                                            |



***The Local Environmental  
Records Centre  
for North Merseyside***

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***North Merseyside BAP Species***

The North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan (NM BAP) was published in September 2001 and last reviewed in 2008. Like other Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) its purpose is to focus local conservation on national priority species and habitats. However, LBAPs also embrace the idea of 'local distinctiveness' and species which are not considered UK conservation priorities can be catered for by LBAPs if they are of particular local significance. Such is the case with the NM BAP which currently names 74 species of which 57 are not conservation priority species but are included because their conservation is considered to be a priority in North Merseyside.

The following tables detail the North Merseyside BAP species that were recorded in the search area.

| Group                           | Common Name             | Scientific Name                   | Records | Dates     | Designations |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| amphibian                       | Great Crested Newt      | <i>Triturus cristatus</i>         | 8       | 1938-2011 | LBAP         |
| bird                            | Corn Bunting            | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>          | 3       | 1997-1999 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Grey Partridge          | <i>Perdix perdix</i>              | 6       | 1997-1999 | LBAP         |
|                                 | House Martin            | <i>Delichon urbicum</i>           | 8       | 1997-1999 | LBAP         |
|                                 | House Sparrow           | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          | 22      | 1997-2001 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Lapwing                 | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>          | 6       | 1990-1998 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Skylark                 | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>            | 7       | 1997-1999 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Song Thrush             | <i>Turdus philomelos</i>          | 7       | 1997-1999 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Starling                | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>           | 7       | 1997-1999 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Swift                   | <i>Apus apus</i>                  | 3       | 1997-1999 | LBAP         |
| flowering plant                 | Bluebell                | <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>  | 49      | 1981-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Smooth Cat's-ear        | <i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>         | 1       | 2015      | LBAP         |
| insect - dragonfly<br>(Odonata) | Azure Damselfly         | <i>Coenagrion puella</i>          | 46      | 1998-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Banded Demoiselle       | <i>Calopteryx splendens</i>       | 1       | 2006      | LBAP         |
|                                 | Black-tailed Skimmer    | <i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>      | 11      | 2006      | LBAP         |
|                                 | Blue-tailed Damselfly   | <i>Ischnura elegans</i>           | 56      | 1984-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Broad-bodied Chaser     | <i>Libellula depressa</i>         | 24      | 2006-2018 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Brown Hawker            | <i>Aeshna grandis</i>             | 23      | 1984-2019 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Common Blue Damselfly   | <i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>      | 43      | 1987-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Common Darter           | <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>       | 30      | 1992-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Emerald Damselfly       | <i>Lestes sponsa</i>              | 6       | 2006-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Emperor Dragonfly       | <i>Anax imperator</i>             | 16      | 2006-2012 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Four-spotted Chaser     | <i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>   | 2       | 2018      | LBAP         |
|                                 | Large Red Damselfly     | <i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>        | 2       | 1998      | LBAP         |
|                                 | Migrant Hawker          | <i>Aeshna mixta</i>               | 1       | 2020      | LBAP         |
|                                 | Red-eyed Damselfly      | <i>Erythromma najas</i>           | 1       | 2018      | LBAP         |
|                                 | Red-veined Darter       | <i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>     | 11      | 2006      | LBAP         |
|                                 | Southern Hawker         | <i>Aeshna cyanea</i>              | 8       | 1984-2016 | LBAP         |
| terrestrial<br>mammal           | Bat                     | <i>Chiroptera</i>                 | 19      | 1983-2020 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Brown Hare              | <i>Lepus europaeus</i>            | 5       | 1989-2010 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Brown Long-eared Bat    | <i>Plecotus auritus</i>           | 20      | 1984-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Common Pipistrelle      | <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>  | 52      | 1991-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Daubenton's Bat         | <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>         | 4       | 2014-2016 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Myotis Bat species      | <i>Myotis</i>                     | 5       | 2014-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Nathusius's Pipistrelle | <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>      | 4       | 2014-2015 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Natterer's Bat          | <i>Myotis nattereri</i>           | 3       | 2015      | LBAP         |
|                                 | Noctule                 | <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>           | 16      | 1902-2022 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Nyctalus Bat species    | <i>Nyctalus</i>                   | 1       | 2014      | LBAP         |
|                                 | Pipistrelle             | <i>Pipistrellus</i>               | 17      | 1902-2016 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Red Squirrel            | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>           | 7       | 2008-2014 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Soprano Pipistrelle     | <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>      | 37      | 2012-2021 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Water Vole              | <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>         | 21      | 1998-2010 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Whiskered Bat           | <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>          | 2       | 2014-2015 | LBAP         |
|                                 | Whiskered/Brandt's Bat  | <i>Myotis mystacinus/brandtii</i> | 2       | 2014-2016 | LBAP         |

| Desig. Code | Desig. Name          | Designation Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LBAP        | North Merseyside BAP | Species that are incorporated within the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan. These species may or may not also be UK BAP species. Some species have their own action plans within the NM BAP, others are members of group species action plans. |

### **NM BAP species: Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)**

Great Crested Newt is thought to have been in decline since the 1940s. Over a period of five years in the 1980s 2% of all UK colonies were lost, and although Britain remains a stronghold for this species, it is now considered to be dependant on conservation and is afforded international protection.

There is no current North Merseyside population estimate, though recent surveys suggest that in the general North West area around 25% of ponds have Great Crested Newts. A study of the parts of the Sefton Coast showed that a number of populations were present.

This species is highly dependant on the quality of ponds and also the habitat in the surrounding area (where they forage and hibernate away from the water). Habitat loss is the greatest cause of decline with many ponds being drained or drying up as a result of natural succession. Removal of scrub and woodland in addition to over-grazing and intensive management of surrounding grassland is also detrimental. Other factors which may affect population levels include predation by fish and waterfowl, habitat fragmentation and pollution.

### **NM BAP species: Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)**

Nationally this species has significantly declined with a loss of 90% of the UK population between 1970 and 2005 and large contractions in the species range.

Locally Corn Bunting is thought to have undergone severe declines with only an estimated 200 pairs remaining in 1997-99. Corn Buntings are sparsely distributed across much of North Merseyside's arable farmland.

Declines are thought to be caused by changes in agricultural practices. Sowing cereals later in the year, increasing use of herbicide and the removal of fallow fields have all greatly reduced winter seed sources. Increasing use of pesticides has reduced the availability of invertebrate food sources. Earlier crop harvesting may also result in the destruction of some nests, especially where there are limited uncropped areas.

### **NM BAP species: Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)**

The UK population of Grey Partridge declined by 88% between 1970 and 2005 and though still widespread shows distinct variation according to agricultural practices. In North Merseyside there were an estimated 300 pairs in 1997-99 and they are present in all suitable habitat.

Loss of suitable habitat is the main cause of decline in this species, with changes in agricultural practices being particularly detrimental. The amalgamation of small fields into a larger ones and the removal of hedgerows, ditches and other field margins have destroyed potential nesting sites. Changes in sowing, harvesting and crop type have removed essential winter food sources.

**NM BAP species: Urban Birds** (*Delichon urbicum*; *Passer domesticus*; *Sturnus vulgaris*; *Apus apus*)

The four species covered by the NM BAP Urban Birds Species Action Plan (House Martin, Swift, House Sparrow and Starling) are considered to be in significant decline across the UK. In North Merseyside House Sparrows and Starlings currently breed in all urban areas, while House Martins are restricted to areas nearer sources of mud for nest-building. Swifts occurred in only 55 tetrads during 1997-2000.

Urban bird numbers are thought to relate strongly to the availability of prey species, and nesting opportunities.

Declines are most likely caused by the reduction in the diversity and abundance of invertebrate prey species resulting from increased 'tidiness' in our parks and gardens, the use of pesticides and other changes in farm practices. The exclusion of urban birds from breeding in or around modern buildings reduces nesting opportunities for urban birds.

**NM BAP species: Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Between 1987 and 1998 Lapwing declined by 48% in England and Wales with Wales and the SW of England showing greatest loss. Two thirds of the population is now resident in the N and NW of England.

Locally this species continues to breed in all suitable habitats and the 2002-03 surveys indicated a population of around 1,500 pairs with arable farmland and pockets of grassland being particularly favoured.

Local threats are thought to include development in nesting areas, increasing recreation and disturbance, scrub encroachments on coastal grassland and changes in farm practice towards silage production, livestock and agricultural intensification.

**NM BAP species: Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*)

Although Skylark is widespread throughout Europe and large numbers are thought to breed in the UK, it is in significant decline with a fall in the population of 75% between 1972 and 1996 on lowland farms and an overall fall in the UK population of 53% between 1970 and 2005.

Locally Skylark breeds in all remaining suitable habitat and in 1997-2000 there were 750 breeding pairs but declines are thought to reflect the national trend.

This species relies heavily on traditional arable farming and so declines have largely been due to changes in farming practices in recent decades. Conversion to silage production, changes in sowing times and general agricultural intensification have all been particularly detrimental by reducing nesting habitat and sources of food.

Other causes of decline include overgrazing, disturbance during the breeding season and loss of grassland to development and tree planting.

**NM BAP species: Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)**

Although still widespread, Song Thrush declined sharply by around 73% in farmland (mid 1970s) and 49% in woodland (1968-1993), while overall UK numbers fell by 50% between 1970 and 2005. The North of the UK is thought to have been hit hardest.

In North Merseyside, though thinly distributed, Song Thrush still breed in most areas with an estimated 500 pairs during 1997-2000. Highest breeding concentrations were found to occur in suburban areas where abundant garden and parkland habitats were present.

Song Thrush are reliant on a variety of habitats to meet their needs at different times of the year and loss of these habitats is causes a reduction in numbers.

Local factors in the decline of the species include changes in farm practices that remove nesting habitat (hedgerows and dense scrub), limit the abundance of winter food (changes in sowing, cropping and use of herbicides/molluscicides) or cause the loss of feeding habitat (use of pesticides/herbicides and monocropping).

**NM BAP species: Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)**

British Bluebells make up about 20% of the global population of *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and are often found in humid woodland habitat, along hedgerows and on occasion along the coast. Locally there are a number of good colonies.

Local threats to the species include possible over-shading in un-managed woodlands, localised trampling by the public in popular areas and hybridisation with the Spanish Bluebell. On a national scale declines are caused by the loss of woodland habitat, grazing by introduced Muntjac, collection of plants and hybridisation with Spanish Bluebell.

**NM BAP species: Sefton Coast Rare Plants (*Hypochaeris glabra*)**

A number of rare plants of the Sefton Coast are recognised as declining on a national scale, with some found in very few other locations. They are all rare locally and in some cases declining. Threats include development causing loss of habitat and destruction of populations, encroachment of scrub which both out competes species and reduces suitable habitat. In some cases rabbit grazing, sand-blow and other changes in the local conditions have detrimental affects.

Due to the small size of many of the populations they are highly vulnerable to any damage or disturbance.

**NM BAP species: Dragonflies (*Coenagrion puella*; *Calopteryx splendens*; *Orthetrum cancellatum*; *Ischnura elegans*; *Libellula depressa*; *Aeshna grandis*; *Enallagma cyathigerum*; *Sympetrum striolatum*; *Lestes sponsa*; *Anax imperator*; *Libellula quadrimaculata*; *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*; *Aeshna mixta*; *Erythromma najas*; *Sympetrum fonscolombii*; *Aeshna cyanea*)**

Twentyone species of dragonfly and damselfly are included in the NM BAP Dragonflies Species Action Plan. These include vagrant species and some which are thought to be undergoing range expansions in the UK. Eighteen of these species are known to breed in our local area, with significant breeding sites in St Helens and Sefton.

Local causes of decline in this include the destruction or damage of essential wetland habitat through development, waste-tipping and agricultural run-off. Removal of nearby feeding habitats such as woodlands, hedgerows and tall vegetation is also detrimental.

**NM BAP species: Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)**

Whilst still well distributed in North Merseyside it is thought that the local population of Brown Hare declined in-line with National trends which have shown severe declines in the western pastoral parts of the country to around 20% of the numbers present in Victorian times.

Reasons for local declines are thought to include loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat to development, illegal hunting and changes in farming practices and land use that cause increased disturbance (changes in cropping/sowing times, livestock trampling and recreation).

**NM BAP species: Bats (*Plecotus auritus*; *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*; *Myotis daubentonii*; *Myotis nattereri*; *Nyctalus noctula*; *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*; *Myotis mystacinus*)**

The NM BAP Bats Species Action Plan covers all species found in North Merseyside since all are considered to be locally threatened.

Bat Species are found throughout North Merseyside, with Pipistrelles (Common/Soprano) most often encountered and Brown Long-eared and Noctules less common. Daubenton's are also frequently encountered in suitable wetland habitat. Whiskered, Brandt's and Natterers are considered rare locally.

Bat species will roost in many locations that are warm, dark, sheltered and little undisturbed. Such places can include derelict buildings, barns, roof spaces and tree hollows.

Factors causing declines in these species include the loss of prey insects due to the increased use of pesticides and general park/garden 'tidiness', loss and fragmentation of habitat mosaics, loss of winter roosts in old trees and buildings and intentional exclusion from buildings by people.

**NM BAP species: Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)**

Over the last 100 years the UK range Red Squirrel has contracted massively. In most areas the species of Britain it has vanished and most populations are now restricted to areas of Scotland and North England. North Merseyside has a relatively stable population on the Sefton Coast with small numbers across Knowsley and St Helens.

Threats include the Grey Squirrel which carries the squirrel pox virus that appears to have been the main cause of the red squirrel decline in Britain. In addition the fragmentation of woodland has reduced suitable habitat and increased road mortality as individuals try to move between pockets of habitats. Locally, over-maturation of trees will soon greatly reduce the Red Squirrels food source.

**NM BAP species: Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)**

This species is found throughout Britain but localised to areas of suitable habitat near water. Previously common this species has undergone severe range and population reductions, with a national survey showing a decline of around 89% since 1939, estimated to increased to a loss of 94% by 2000. Merseyside appears to be a stronghold for the species with 75% of sites surveyed having Water Voles present in 1989-90. Though they may still be in decline locally, it is thought to be at a lower level than nationally.

Local declines in the species are caused by inappropriate management of bank-side habitats and waterside developments as well as predation by invasive species such as mink. The use of rodenticides and loss of habitat connectivity may also be factors in population declines.

### ***NERC Act Section 41 Species***

Known also as 'Species of Principle Importance in England' and the 'England Biodiversity List' this list was developed to meet the requirements of Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). The list is derived, almost wholly, from the 2012 revised list of 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' priority species. (So called 'research only' moth species have been excluded from the report.). The section 41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 'to have regard' to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions. In particular:

- Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities must use it to identify the species that should be afforded priority when applying the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to maintain, restore and enhance species and habitats.
- Local Planning Authorities must use it to identify the species that require specific consideration in dealing with planning and development control, recognising that under NPPF the aim of planning decisions should be to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity.
- All Public Bodies must use it to identify species that should be given priority when implementing the NERC Section 40 duty.

The following tables detail the NERC Section 41 species that were recorded in the search area.

| Group                      | Common Name               | Scientific Name                    | Records | Dates     | Designations          |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------------|
| amphibian                  | Common Toad               | <i>Bufo bufo</i>                   | 4       | 1990-2015 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Great Crested Newt        | <i>Triturus cristatus</i>          | 8       | 1938-2011 | Sect.41               |
| bird                       | Bullfinch                 | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>           | 2       | 1997-1998 | Sect.41.suppl         |
|                            | Corn Bunting              | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>           | 3       | 1997-1999 | Sect.41.suppl         |
|                            | Cuckoo                    | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>             | 3       | 1997-1998 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Dunnock                   | <i>Prunella modularis</i>          | 7       | 1997-1999 | Sect.41.suppl         |
|                            | Grasshopper Warbler       | <i>Locustella naevia</i>           | 4       | 1998-2001 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Grey Partridge            | <i>Perdix perdix</i>               | 6       | 1997-1999 | Sect.41               |
|                            | House Sparrow             | <i>Passer domesticus</i>           | 22      | 1997-2001 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Lapwing                   | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>           | 6       | 1990-1998 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Lesser Redpoll            | <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>            | 3       | 1997-1999 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dryobates minor</i>             | 2       | 1998-1999 | Sect.41.suppl         |
|                            | Linnet                    | <i>Linaria cannabina</i>           | 6       | 1997-1999 | Sect.41.suppl         |
|                            | Reed Bunting              | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>        | 8       | 1997-2001 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Skylark                   | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>             | 7       | 1997-1999 | Sect.41,Sect.41.suppl |
|                            | Song Thrush               | <i>Turdus philomelos</i>           | 7       | 1997-1999 | Sect.41.suppl         |
|                            | Spotted Flycatcher        | <i>Muscicapa striata</i>           | 3       | 1997-1998 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Starling                  | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>            | 7       | 1997-1999 | Sect.41.suppl         |
|                            | Turtle Dove               | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>         | 3       | 1998      | Sect.41               |
|                            | Willow Tit                | <i>Poecile montanus</i>            | 2       | 1998      | Sect.41.suppl         |
|                            | Yellow Wagtail            | <i>Motacilla flava</i>             | 3       | 1998-1999 | Sect.41.suppl         |
|                            | Yellowhammer              | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>         | 2       | 1999-2005 | Sect.41               |
| bony fish (Actinopterygii) | European Eel              | <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>           | 5       | 1987-2005 | Sect.41               |
| flowering plant            | Coral-necklace            | <i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i>    | 1       | 2015      | Sect.41               |
|                            | Cornflower                | <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>            | 3       | 1987-2015 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Greater Water-parsnip     | <i>Sium latifolium</i>             | 1       | 1993      | Sect.41               |
| fungus                     | Olive Earthtongue         | <i>Microglossum olivaceum</i> agg. | 1       | 2000      | Sect.41               |
| insect - butterfly         | Small Heath               | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>       | 1       | 1995      | Sect.41               |
|                            | Wall                      | <i>Lasiommata megera</i>           | 12      | 1905-2019 | Sect.41               |
| insect - moth              | Buff Ermine               | <i>Spilosoma lutea</i>             | 10      | 2006-2014 | Sect.41               |
|                            | Dark Brocade              | <i>Mniotype adusta</i>             | 1       | 1900      | Sect.41               |
|                            | Shoulder-striped Wainscot | <i>Leucania comma</i>              | 3       | 2007-2014 | Sect.41               |

| Group              | Common Name          | Scientific Name                     | Records | Dates     | Designations |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| terrestrial mammal | Bat                  | <i>Chiroptera</i>                   | 19      | 1983-2020 | Sect.41      |
|                    | Brown Hare           | <i>Lepus europaeus</i>              | 5       | 1989-2010 | Sect.41      |
|                    | Brown Long-eared Bat | <i>Plecotus auritus</i>             | 20      | 1984-2022 | Sect.41      |
|                    | Feral Ferret         | <i>Mustela putorius subsp. furo</i> | 1       | 1993      | Sect.41      |
|                    | Harvest Mouse        | <i>Micromys minutus</i>             | 4       | 2014      | Sect.41      |
|                    | Hedgehog             | <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>          | 94      | 1994-2022 | Sect.41      |
|                    | Myotis Bat species   | <i>Myotis</i>                       | 5       | 2014-2022 | Sect.41      |
|                    | Noctule              | <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>             | 16      | 1902-2022 | Sect.41      |
|                    | Nyctalus Bat species | <i>Nyctalus</i>                     | 1       | 2014      | Sect.41      |
|                    | Pipistrelle          | <i>Pipistrellus</i>                 | 17      | 1902-2016 | Sect.41      |
|                    | Polecat              | <i>Mustela putorius</i>             | 1       | 1934      | Sect.41      |
|                    | Red Squirrel         | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>             | 7       | 2008-2014 | Sect.41      |
|                    | Soprano Pipistrelle  | <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>        | 37      | 2012-2021 | Sect.41      |
|                    | Water Vole           | <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>           | 21      | 1998-2010 | Sect.41      |

| Desig. Code   | Desig. Name                                                                                          | Designation Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sect.41       | Natural Env. and Rural Communities Act 2006. Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) | Species "of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity. |
| Sect.41.suppl | Supplementary list to deal with S41 bird sub-sp problems                                             | Bird species corresponding to British sub-species listed in section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006).                                                                                                                                                                               |

### **IUCN Red-listed Species**

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (sometimes called 'Red Data Book' species) indicates the conservation status of plants and animals that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. The system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those plants and animals that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). The IUCN Red List also includes information on plants and animals that are categorized as 'Extinct' or 'Extinct in the Wild'; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information ('Data Deficient'); and on plants and animals that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme ('Near Threatened').

The following tables detail the IUCN Red-listed species that were recorded in the search area.

| Group                             | Common Name                | Scientific Name                   | Records | Dates     | Designations                                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|
| flowering plant                   | Box                        | <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>         | 1       | 2019      | RLGB.DD                                     |
|                                   | Common Eyebright           | <i>Euphrasia nemorosa</i>         | 3       | 2000-2019 | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
|                                   | Coral-necklace             | <i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i>   | 1       | 2015      | RLGB.EN                                     |
|                                   | Corn Chamomile             | <i>Anthemis arvensis</i>          | 5       | 1987-1994 | RLGB.EN                                     |
|                                   | Corn Marigold              | <i>Glebionis segetum</i>          | 6       | 1987-2015 | RLGB.VU                                     |
|                                   | Corn Spurrey               | <i>Spergula arvensis</i>          | 4       | 1987-2005 | RLGB.VU                                     |
|                                   | Greater Water-parsnip      | <i>Sium latifolium</i>            | 1       | 1993      | RLGB.EN                                     |
|                                   | Heath Dog-violet           | <i>Viola canina</i>               | 1       | 2007      | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
|                                   | Meadow Clary               | <i>Salvia pratensis</i>           | 1       | 2015      | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
|                                   | Smooth Cat's-ear           | <i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>         | 1       | 2015      | RLGB.VU                                     |
|                                   | Yellow Vetchling           | <i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>            | 3       | 2019      | RLGB.VU                                     |
|                                   |                            |                                   |         |           |                                             |
| fungus                            | Hortiboletus engelii       | <i>Hortiboletus engelii</i>       | 1       | 2018      | RLGB.DD                                     |
|                                   | Leccinum melaneum          | <i>Leccinum melaneum</i>          | 1       | 2014      | RLGB.DD                                     |
|                                   | Slate Bolete               | <i>Leccinum duriusculum</i>       | 8       | 2010-2019 | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
| insect - beetle (Coleoptera)      | Alder Leaf Beetle          | <i>Agelastica alni</i>            | 34      | 2016-2022 | RLGB.DD                                     |
| insect - butterfly                | Small Heath                | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>      | 1       | 1995      | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
|                                   | Wall                       | <i>Lasiommata megera</i>          | 12      | 1905-2019 | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
| insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera) | Potamophylax rotundipennis | <i>Potamophylax rotundipennis</i> | 4       | 2014-2015 | RLGB.DD                                     |
| insect - dragonfly (Odonata)      | Common Darter              | <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>       | 30      | 1992-2022 | RLGB.DD                                     |
| mollusc                           | Large Black Slug           | <i>Arion (Arion) ater</i>         | 4       | 1986-2019 | RLGB.DD                                     |
| terrestrial mammal                | Bat                        | <i>Chiroptera</i>                 | 19      | 1983-2020 | RLGB.CR,RLGB.DD,RLGB.EN,RLGB.Lr(NT),RLGB.VU |
|                                   | Harvest Mouse              | <i>Micromys minutus</i>           | 4       | 2014      | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
|                                   | Hedgehog                   | <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>        | 94      | 1994-2022 | RLGB.VU                                     |
|                                   | Myotis Bat species         | <i>Myotis</i>                     | 5       | 2014-2022 | RLGB.CR,RLGB.DD                             |
|                                   | Nathusius's Pipistrelle    | <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>      | 4       | 2014-2015 | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
|                                   | Nyctalus Bat species       | <i>Nyctalus</i>                   | 1       | 2014      | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
|                                   | Pipistrelle                | <i>Pipistrellus</i>               | 17      | 1902-2016 | RLGB.Lr(NT)                                 |
|                                   | Red Squirrel               | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>           | 7       | 2008-2014 | RLGB.EN                                     |
|                                   | Water Vole                 | <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>         | 21      | 1998-2010 | RLGB.EN                                     |
|                                   | Whiskered Bat              | <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>          | 2       | 2014-2015 | RLGB.DD                                     |

| Desig. Code | Desig. Name                                | Designation Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RLGB.DD     | IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient               | A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat or Lower Risk. Listing of taxa in this category indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research will show that a threatened category is appropriate. |
| RLGB.Lr(NT) | IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened | Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| RLGB.EN     | IUCN (2001) - Endangered                   | A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| RLGB.VU     | IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable                   | A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| RLGB.CR     | IUCN (2001) - Critically endangered        | A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

### Nationally Notable Species

These are plants and animals which do not fall within red-list categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain.

The following tables detail the Nationally Notable species that were recorded in the search area.

| Group                           | Common Name                  | Scientific Name                 | Records | Dates     | Designations |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| flowering plant                 | Aggregate-headed Hawkweed    | <i>Hieracium aggregatum</i>     | 1       | 1981      | NR-excludes  |
|                                 | Box                          | <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>       | 1       | 2019      | NR-excludes  |
|                                 | Coral-necklace               | <i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i> | 1       | 2015      | NR-excludes  |
|                                 | Fly Honeysuckle              | <i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>       | 6       | 2019      | NR-excludes  |
|                                 | Greater Water-parsnip        | <i>Sium latifolium</i>          | 1       | 1993      | NS-excludes  |
|                                 | Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil    | <i>Lotus subbiflorus</i>        | 3       | 2015      | NS-excludes  |
|                                 | Large-leaved Lime            | <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>       | 16      | 1987-2021 | NS-excludes  |
|                                 | Marsh Sow-thistle            | <i>Sonchus palustris</i>        | 1       | 2010      | NS-excludes  |
|                                 | Meadow Clary                 | <i>Salvia pratensis</i>         | 1       | 2015      | NS-excludes  |
|                                 | Rock Whitebeam               | <i>Sorbus rupicola</i>          | 1       | 2007      | NS-excludes  |
|                                 | Rubus rotundifolius          | <i>Rubus rotundifolius</i>      | 1       | 1994      | NR-excludes  |
|                                 | Water-soldier                | <i>Stratiotes aloides</i>       | 11      | 1984-2012 | NR-excludes  |
|                                 | Welsh Poppy                  | <i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>      | 5       | 2016-2021 | NS-excludes  |
|                                 | Yellow Vetchling             | <i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>          | 3       | 2019      | NS-excludes  |
| insect - beetle<br>(Coleoptera) | Anaglyptus mysticus          | <i>Anaglyptus mysticus</i>      | 2       | 2003      | Nb           |
|                                 | Atheta hygrobica             | <i>Atheta hygrobica</i>         | 1       | 1990      | N            |
|                                 | Bibloporus minutus           | <i>Bibloporus minutus</i>       | 1       | 1992      | Nb           |
|                                 | Cypha pulicaria              | <i>Cypha pulicaria</i>          | 1       | 1992      | N            |
|                                 | Enicmus brevicornis          | <i>Enicmus brevicornis</i>      | 2       | 1991-1992 | N            |
|                                 | Euplectus duponti            | <i>Euplectus duponti</i>        | 1       | 1989      | N            |
|                                 | Medon apicalis               | <i>Medon apicalis</i>           | 2       | 1947      | N            |
|                                 | Melasis buprestoides         | <i>Melasis buprestoides</i>     | 1       | 1992      | Nb           |
|                                 | Notolaemus unifasciatus      | <i>Notolaemus unifasciatus</i>  | 3       | 1991-1992 | Na           |
|                                 | Orthoperus nigrescens        | <i>Orthoperus nigrescens</i>    | 4       | 1990-1992 | Nb           |
|                                 | Rhizophagus nitidulus        | <i>Rhizophagus nitidulus</i>    | 1       | 1992      | Nb           |
| insect -<br>hymenopteran        | Buff-tailed Mining Bee       | <i>Andrena humilis</i>          | 2       | 2017      | Nb           |
|                                 | Red-tailed (Hill) Cuckoo Bee | <i>Bombus rupestris</i>         | 1       | 2017      | Nb           |
|                                 | Small Scabious Mining Bee    | <i>Andrena marginata</i>        | 8       | 2017      | Na           |

| Desig. Code | Desig. Name                                 | Designation Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NS-excludes | Nationally Scarce. Excludes Red Listed taxa | Nationally Scarce - Occurring in 16-100 hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| NR-excludes | Nationally Rare. Excludes Red Listed taxa   | Nationally Rare - Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Nb          | Nationally Notable B                        | Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in between 31 and 100 10km squares of the National Grid or, for less-well recorded groups between eight and twenty vice-counties. Superseded by Nationally Scarce, and therefore no longer in use. |
| N           | Nationally Notable                          | Species which are estimated to occur within the range of 16 to 100 10km squares. (subdivision into Notable A and Notable B is not always possible because there may be insufficient information available). Superseded by Nationally Scarce, and therefore no longer in use.                                               |
| Na          | Nationally Notable A                        | Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in 30 or fewer 10km squares of the National Grid or, for less well-recorded groups, within seven or fewer vice-counties. Superseded by Nationally Scarce, and therefore no longer in use.          |

### **WCA schedule 9 species (including non-native invasive plants)**

Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (amended 2010) lists species of plants and animals for which it is a specific offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild (plants) or release or allow to escape into the wild (animals). Many of these are invasive non-native plants and animals, but there are also a number of native animals on the list (e.g. Barn Owl) which cannot be released into the wild in England without a license from Natural England.

The following tables detail the WCA Schedule 9 species recorded in the search area.

| Group              | Common Name                          | Scientific Name                                         | Records | Dates     | Designations |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| bird               | Barn Owl                             | <i>Tyto alba</i>                                        | 3       | 1998-2002 | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Barnacle Goose                       | <i>Branta leucopsis</i>                                 | 1       | 2000      | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Canada Goose                         | <i>Branta canadensis</i>                                | 7       | 1997-2018 | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Ruddy Duck                           | <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>                               | 4       | 1997-2001 | MBB-WCA-S9   |
| crustacean         | Turkish Crayfish                     | <i>Astacus leptodactylus</i>                            | 1       | 2015      | MBB-WCA-S9   |
| fern               | Water Fern                           | <i>Azolla filiculoides</i>                              | 1       | 1992      | MBB-WCA-S9   |
| flowering plant    | Canadian Waterweed                   | <i>Elodea canadensis</i>                                | 15      | 1981-2012 | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Floating Pennywort                   | <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>                        | 1       | 2016      | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Himalayan Balsam                     | <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>                           | 43      | 1992-2022 | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Japanese Knotweed                    | <i>Fallopia japonica</i>                                | 65      | 1981-2022 | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Japanese Rose                        | <i>Rosa rugosa</i>                                      | 1       | 2021      | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Lamium galeobdolon subsp. argentatum | <i>Lamium galeobdolon subsp. argentatum</i>             | 1       | 2022      | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Montbretia                           | <i>Crocodymia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora</i> | 3       | 1984-2019 | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Rhododendron ponticum                | <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>                            | 50      | 1981-2022 | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Three-cornered Garlic                | <i>Allium triquetrum</i>                                | 1       | 2022      | MBB-WCA-S9   |
| terrestrial mammal | American Mink                        | <i>Neovison vison</i>                                   | 2       | 2017      | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Grey Squirrel                        | <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>                             | 189     | 2000-2021 | MBB-WCA-S9   |
|                    | Muntjac                              | <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>                                | 1       | 2012      | MBB-WCA-S9   |

| Desig. Code | Desig. Name                                                                                | Designation Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MBB-WCA-S9  | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 9) (England and Wales) Order 2010 | Species on Schedule 9 (part 2) as revised 2010. Under section 14 of the Act it is illegal to release into the wild any animal or allow to grow in the wild any plant which is not ordinarily resident in GB or which is a known threat and is listed on Schedule 9 of the Act. |

## BAP priority habitats

In 2007 the Local Biodiversity Manager (responsible for the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan) undertook a review of the extent of UK BAP priority habitats in North Merseyside and produced GIS layers to show their extents. In most cases these inventories were derived from two main sources: the latest Phase 1 habitat surveys which were conducted for the four North Merseyside local authorities between 1996 and 2007; and an NVC survey of the Sefton Coast carried out between 2003 and 2004. A separate NVC survey of the Ribble estuary carried out in 2002 (which also included saltmarsh at the Alt) was also useful as were one or two other sources. Because of the diverse nature of habitat classifications, it was not always possible to produce inventories with a one-to-one correspondence with UK BAP priority habitats. The table below shows the BAP habitat inventories for North Merseyside and their correspondence with UK BAP priority habitats.

| North Merseyside habitat inventory | Correspondence with UK BAP priority habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lowland Acid Grassland             | Lowland Dry Acid Grassland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Lowland Heathland                  | Lowland Heathland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Lowland Raised Bog                 | Lowland Raised Bog                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Neutral Grassland                  | Incorporates the UK BAP habitat Lowland Meadows but also, in North Merseyside, includes a lot of amenity grassland, road verges etc.                                                                                                                                                            |
| Calcareous Grassland               | Calcareous Grassland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Ponds                              | Ponds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Lakes                              | Eutrophic lakes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Reedbeds                           | Reedbeds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Hedgerows                          | Hedgerows                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Saltmarsh                          | Coast Saltmarsh                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Sand Dune                          | Coastal Sand Dune                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| All Woodland                       | It was not possible, from the available data, to produce separate inventories for different woodland types in North Merseyside, so this inventory incorporates elements of several UK BAP priority habitats such as Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland and Wood Pasture & Parkland. |

Note that the 'Ponds' BAP inventory was derived locally using water bodies less than two hectares in extent from Ordnance Survey data. The 'Lakes' BAP inventory is a nationally supplied inventory, but the lakes are only represented in this as points. Therefore any water body over two hectares in extent will only be represented on our habitat maps by a point and will not show the extent of the lake. However, ponds will be indicated by polygons showing their extent. Occasionally a large pond – though still less than two hectares in extent – will be represented in both the 'Lake' and 'Pond' inventories.

| Habitat           | Amount | Units      |
|-------------------|--------|------------|
| Lakes             | 2      | count      |
| Hedgerows         | 4.68   | kilometres |
| All Woodland      | 98.47  | hectares   |
| Neutral Grassland | 22.37  | hectares   |
| Ponds             | 3.98   | hectares   |
| Ponds             | 36     | count      |

The table above indicates the extent of each of the BAP habitat inventories (see previous table) occurring within your search area (see appendix 2 for maps).

## Detailed habitat mapping

Merseyside BioBank collates and maintains detailed habitat mapping – normally Phase 1 or NVC – for the North Merseyside area. This includes both historic data and the most up-to-date habitat survey data available. Here we report on the detailed habitat mapping we hold for your search area.

| Ref: EN-CBA-Coastal                                                                                                                                         |                                      |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region.                                      |                                      |         |
| Survey date: 01/01/2016                                                                                                                                     |                                      |         |
| Notes: LCR Ecological Network Coastal Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information. |                                      |         |
| CBA General features                                                                                                                                        |                                      |         |
| Gen1                                                                                                                                                        | Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh | 0.04 ha |

| Ref: EN-CBA-Geological                                                                                                                                         |                                         |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------|
| Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region                                          |                                         |         |
| Survey date: 01/01/2016                                                                                                                                        |                                         |         |
| Notes: LCR Ecological Network Geological Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information. |                                         |         |
| CBA Geological                                                                                                                                                 |                                         |         |
| Ge1                                                                                                                                                            | Inland rock outcrops and scree habitats | 0.02 ha |

| Ref: EN-CBA-Grassland                                                                                                                                         |                |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region                                         |                |          |
| Survey date: 01/01/2016                                                                                                                                       |                |          |
| Notes: LCR Ecological Network Grassland Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information. |                |          |
| CBA Grassland                                                                                                                                                 |                |          |
| Gr1                                                                                                                                                           | Grasslands     | 22.88 ha |
| Gr6                                                                                                                                                           | Lowland Meadow | 19.15 ha |

| Ref: EN-CBA-Mosaic                                                                                                                                         |                     |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region                                      |                     |           |
| Survey date: 01/01/2016                                                                                                                                    |                     |           |
| Notes: LCR Ecological Network Mosaic Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information. |                     |           |
| CBA General features                                                                                                                                       |                     |           |
| Gen3                                                                                                                                                       | Local Wildlife Site | 243.99 ha |

| Ref: EN-CBA-Wetland                                                                                                                                         |                                   |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region                                       |                                   |         |
| Survey date: 01/01/2016                                                                                                                                     |                                   |         |
| Notes: LCR Ecological Network Wetland Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information. |                                   |         |
| CBA General features                                                                                                                                        |                                   |         |
| Gen3                                                                                                                                                        | Local Wildlife Site               | 2.11 ha |
| Gen4                                                                                                                                                        | Reedbeds                          | 2.09 ha |
| CBA Wetland                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |         |
| We4                                                                                                                                                         | Lowland Fens                      | 0.27 ha |
| We7                                                                                                                                                         | Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures | 0.19 ha |

| Ref: EN-CBA-Woodland                                                                                                                                         |                                   |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region                                        |                                   |           |
| Survey date: 01/01/2016                                                                                                                                      |                                   |           |
| Notes: LCR Ecological Network Woodland Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information. |                                   |           |
| CBA General features                                                                                                                                         |                                   |           |
| Gen3                                                                                                                                                         | Local Wildlife Site               | 1.89 ha   |
| CBA Woodland                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |           |
| Wo10                                                                                                                                                         | Wood-Pasture and Parkland         | 3.78 ha   |
| Wo3                                                                                                                                                          | Lowland Mixed Broad-leaf Woodland | 284.13 ha |
| Wo4                                                                                                                                                          | Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland  | 253.01 ha |
| Wo6                                                                                                                                                          | Lowland Wood-pasture and Parkland | 26.87 ha  |
| Wo8                                                                                                                                                          | Traditional Orchards              | 1.36 ha   |
| Wo9                                                                                                                                                          | Wet Woodland                      | 0.7 ha    |

| Ref: EN-LinearFeatures                                                                                                                      |                         |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region                       |                         |          |
| Survey date: 01/01/2016                                                                                                                     |                         |          |
| Notes: LCR Ecological Network Linear features. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information. |                         |          |
| Linear feature                                                                                                                              |                         |          |
| Lin1                                                                                                                                        | Active railway corridor | 23.57 km |
| Lin5                                                                                                                                        | Hedgerow                | 4.68 km  |
| Lin6                                                                                                                                        | Major road corridor     | 20.95 km |
| Lin7                                                                                                                                        | River                   | 5.81 km  |

| Ref: EN-SteppingStones                                                                                                                              |       |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region                               |       |         |
| Survey date: 01/01/2016                                                                                                                             |       |         |
| Notes: LCR Ecological Network Stepping Stone habitats. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information. |       |         |
| Stepping stone habitat                                                                                                                              |       |         |
| SS1                                                                                                                                                 | Ponds | 4.02 ha |

| Ref: Knowsley-1996-98                                                                                                       |                                               |                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Source: Complete phase 1 habitat survey for Knowsley 1996-98.                                                               |                                               |                       |
| Survey date: 1996 - 1998                                                                                                    |                                               |                       |
| Notes: This is the 'default' baseline mapping used by the Council. It is the most recent complete coverage for the borough. |                                               |                       |
| Woodland and scrub                                                                                                          |                                               |                       |
| A1.1.1                                                                                                                      | Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural           | 0.29 ha               |
| A1.1.2                                                                                                                      | Broadleaved woodland - plantation             | 1.64 ha               |
| A2.1                                                                                                                        | Scrub - dense/continuous                      | 0.08 ha               |
| A2.2                                                                                                                        | Scrub - scattered                             | 0.01 ha<br>26 (count) |
| A3.1                                                                                                                        | Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees          | 0.56 ha<br>49 (count) |
| Grassland and marsh                                                                                                         |                                               |                       |
| B6                                                                                                                          | Poor semi-improved grassland                  | 0.77 ha               |
| Miscellaneous                                                                                                               |                                               |                       |
| J1.2                                                                                                                        | Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland | 21.56 ha              |
| J2.1.2                                                                                                                      | Intact hedge - species-poor                   | 0.13 km               |
| J2.4                                                                                                                        | Fence                                         | 0.04 km               |
| J4                                                                                                                          | Bare ground                                   | 2.87 ha               |

Habitat maps themselves are produced at the end of the report. You can cross-reference the figures in the tables below to the maps by means of the reference which appears on each map. A map with the reference 'Composite' is a special map made on-the-fly at the time of this report production by merging data from all available sources and using the most up-to-date mapping available at any given point in your search area.

## Designated Areas

There are a number of types of 'designated areas' in North Merseyside. These types are shown in the table below together with the total number of North Merseyside sites for each.

| Type of area                                 | No. of sites |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Site of Special Scientific Interest          | 6            |
| Special Protection Area (Natura 2000)        | 3            |
| Marine Special Protection Area               | 1            |
| Special Area of Conservation (Natura 2000)   | 1            |
| RAMSAR (wetland of international importance) | 3            |
| National Nature Reserve                      | 3            |
| Local Nature Reserve                         | 57           |
| Knowsley Local Wildlife Site                 | 65           |
| Sefton Local Wildlife Site                   | 55           |
| St Helens Local Wildlife Site                | 117          |
| Liverpool Local Wildlife Site                | 29           |
| Merseyside Ancient Woodland Inventory        | 11           |
| RSPB/LWT Windfarm Alert Map                  | 1            |
| Red Squirrel Protection Area                 | 1            |

The following table indicates the results of the intersection between the search area and designated areas detailed above (see appendix 2 for maps).

| Name                              | Type                         |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| River Alt and M57 Corridor        | Nature Improvement Area      |
| Grey Squirrel Control Zone        | LWT Squirrel Alert Maps      |
| Carr Lane Lake, Prescott          | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |
| Huyton Lane Wetland               | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |
| Ten Acre Pits, Huyton             | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |
| Stadt Moers Q4                    | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |
| Stadt Moers Q2 and visitor centre | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |
| Huyton and Prescott Golf Club     | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |
| Stadt Moers Q3                    | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |
| Grassland, w of Seth Powell Way   | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |
| River Alt, Seth Powell Way        | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |
| Knowsley Park                     | Knowsley Local Wildlife Site |

Citations<sup>1</sup> for Local Wildlife Sites are supplied separately.

<sup>1</sup> In Knowsley, some Local Wildlife Site citations do not include lists of species and habitats for which they are designated and where this is the case a separate list is supplied for the site. No citations for LNRs are available. Citations for national and internationally designated sites (SSSI, SPA etc) are publicly available.

## **Interpretation and caveats**

### ***Merseyside BioBank records included***

All relevant non-confidential records managed by Merseyside BioBank which intersect the search area are included in this report, except where excluded by one or more of the conditions described in the rest of this section.

### ***NBN Atlas records included***

All relevant records available to Merseyside BioBank from the NBN Atlas are included in this report, except where excluded by one or more of the conditions described in the rest of this section. NBN Atlas records are accessed live via web-services at the time of report generation.

Merseyside BioBank often has access to NBN records at higher resolution than the standard 'public' access. These records have been downloaded and used with the permission of the data providers, but are subject to normal NBN Atlas terms and conditions. You must not use them beyond the specific purposes for which this report was provided to you and you must adhere, at all times, to the NBN Atlas terms and conditions.

### ***Record location and dates***

If a record can only be located to a relatively low precision (e.g. 1 km or 2 km square), then it is possible that the unrecorded precise location of the animal or plant might have been outside of the search area. Sometimes the location name column can be useful in deciding whether or not this was likely to have been the case. In records from our own database, we have replaced all digits with the '#' character in the location field to people's privacy where addresses have been used as location names.

Records which are only available to us at less than 2 km square (tetrad) precision are excluded from the report. We report dates at the highest precision available to us. Records for which no date is available are excluded from the report.

### ***Sensitive taxa***

For some sensitive taxa, the precision of grid references presented here may have been reduced. We do this for:

- all records of Badger; and
- records of breeding Otter.

In addition, we do not report on 'negative records' for Badger or Otter.

### ***Absence of records and 'negative records'***

The absence of biological records for an area, or the presence of 'negative records', is not proof that taxa are not present.

### ***Duplicate records***

Although we do our very best to avoid reporting the same record more than once ('duplicate records') this is sometimes unavoidable for records that have entered the biological records network via more than one route. In particular, there may be some record duplication between records from Merseyside BioBank's database and records from the NBN Atlas datasets

(though, of course, we do not report on NBN Atlas records which originate from Merseyside BioBank).

### ***Validity of records***

Whilst Merseyside BioBank continually strives to verify the records that we manage, we accept no responsibility for any errors subsequently discovered. Merseyside BioBank accepts no responsibility for errors in data derived from the NBN Atlas.

### ***Verification status of records***

Records used in this report include those considered verified and those as yet unchecked. This approach is taken on balance to ensure that all potential risks that we are aware of have been flagged.

### ***Bird records***

Only bird records with a recorded status of proven, probable and possible breeding have been included in this data search. Bird records with other statuses are not included. The most recent bird records for North Merseyside included, e.g. those generated for the ongoing breeding and wintering atlas projects, since these data have yet to undergo verification by the County Bird Recorder. It is possible for you to contact the County Bird Recorder independently for his interpretation of the most recent data with respect to your search area. The contact details are:

Steve White  
[stevewhite102@btinternet.com](mailto:stevewhite102@btinternet.com)

Please note that if this is a commercial data request you will be invoiced by **Sefton Borough Council**, which is the hosting authority for Merseyside BioBank.

## **Appendix 1: Terms and conditions of use**

**Merseyside BioBank receives data from a variety of sources, from large organisations to amateur naturalists. With Merseyside BioBank operating as custodians, these individuals and groups, who provide their records free of charge, retain copyright on their data.**

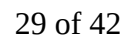
**All data passed to a third party (users) by Merseyside BioBank are subject to these access terms and conditions. Non-adherence to these terms and conditions will be viewed as a breach of contract, which may result in legal redress being sought.**

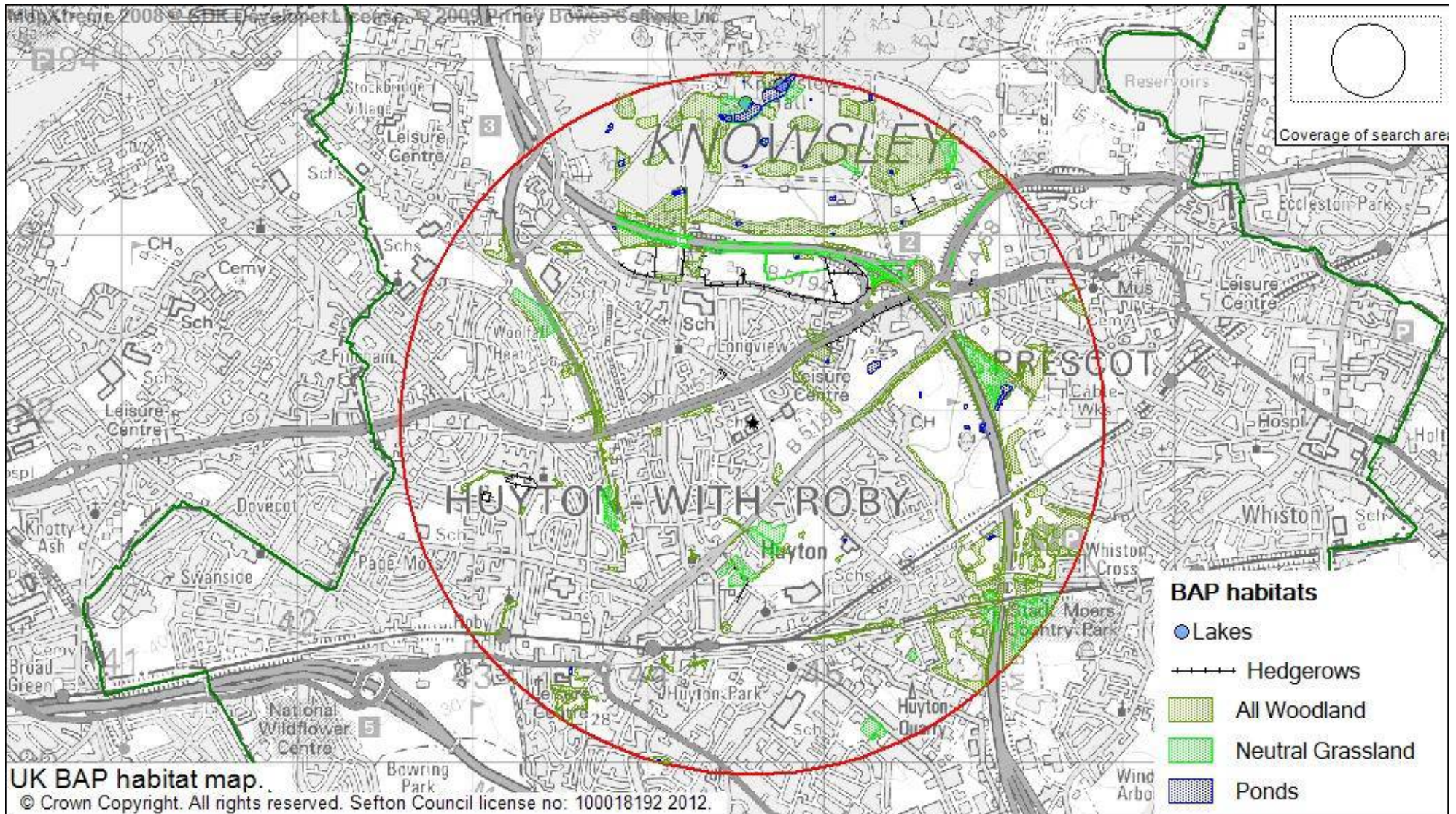
1. Users agree that data released by Merseyside BioBank, in any format and on any media, will only be used for the purpose for which it was originally requested and for any time period originally agreed upon (See note 3 below).
2. Users agree that data released by Merseyside BioBank will not be added to any permanent database system (electronic or paper based) unless by written agreement with Merseyside BioBank.
3. Users understand that following the end of the agreed time period, or 12 months from the enquiry date, the received data must be deleted from any electronic system (See note 2 above). Use of the data beyond this period must be preceded by a further request to Merseyside BioBank.
4. Users agree that data retrieved from Merseyside BioBank will not be passed on to or communicated with third parties except as aggregated data within reports, or as anonymised data in the form of maps etc., which constitute a part of the agreed reason for the original enquiry.
5. Merseyside BioBank disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy of the information within its reports and accepts no liability for any result of using these data.
6. Any biological record is specific to the date of the recording and does not necessarily imply the continuance of the species at that site.
7. The lack of species and/or habitat information for a geographically defined area does not necessarily imply a low biodiversity value for that area. It may simply be unrecorded.
8. While the information from Merseyside BioBank in itself will remain free, Merseyside BioBank reserves the right to charge a reasonable fee to cover administration and a proportion of overheads as detailed in our charging policy.
9. A copy of any report, or other product, produced using the data from Merseyside BioBank would be gratefully received if provided without cost.
10. Merseyside BioBank must be acknowledged within any report, or other product produced, using data provided by Merseyside BioBank.

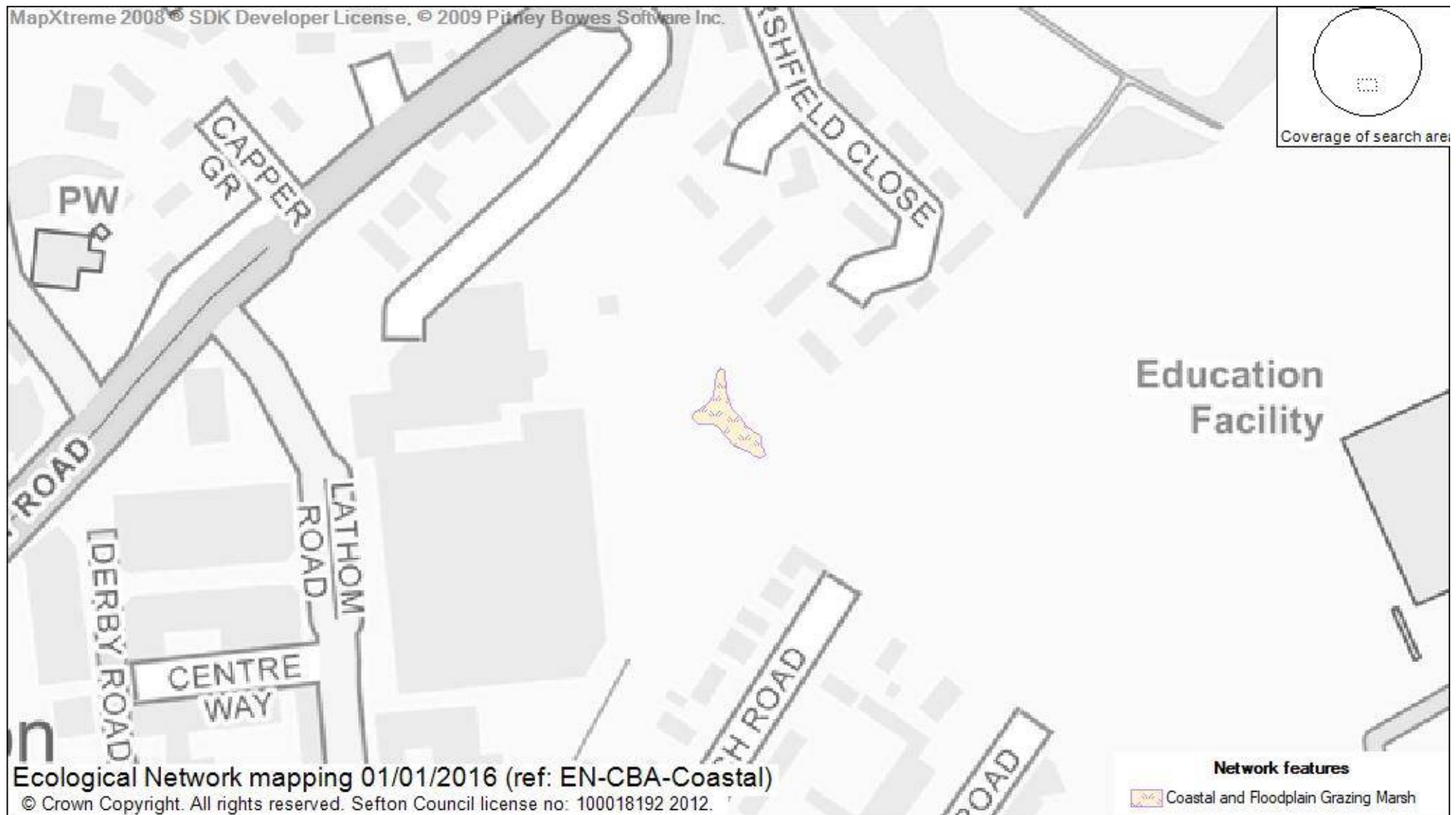
## **Appendix 2: Maps**

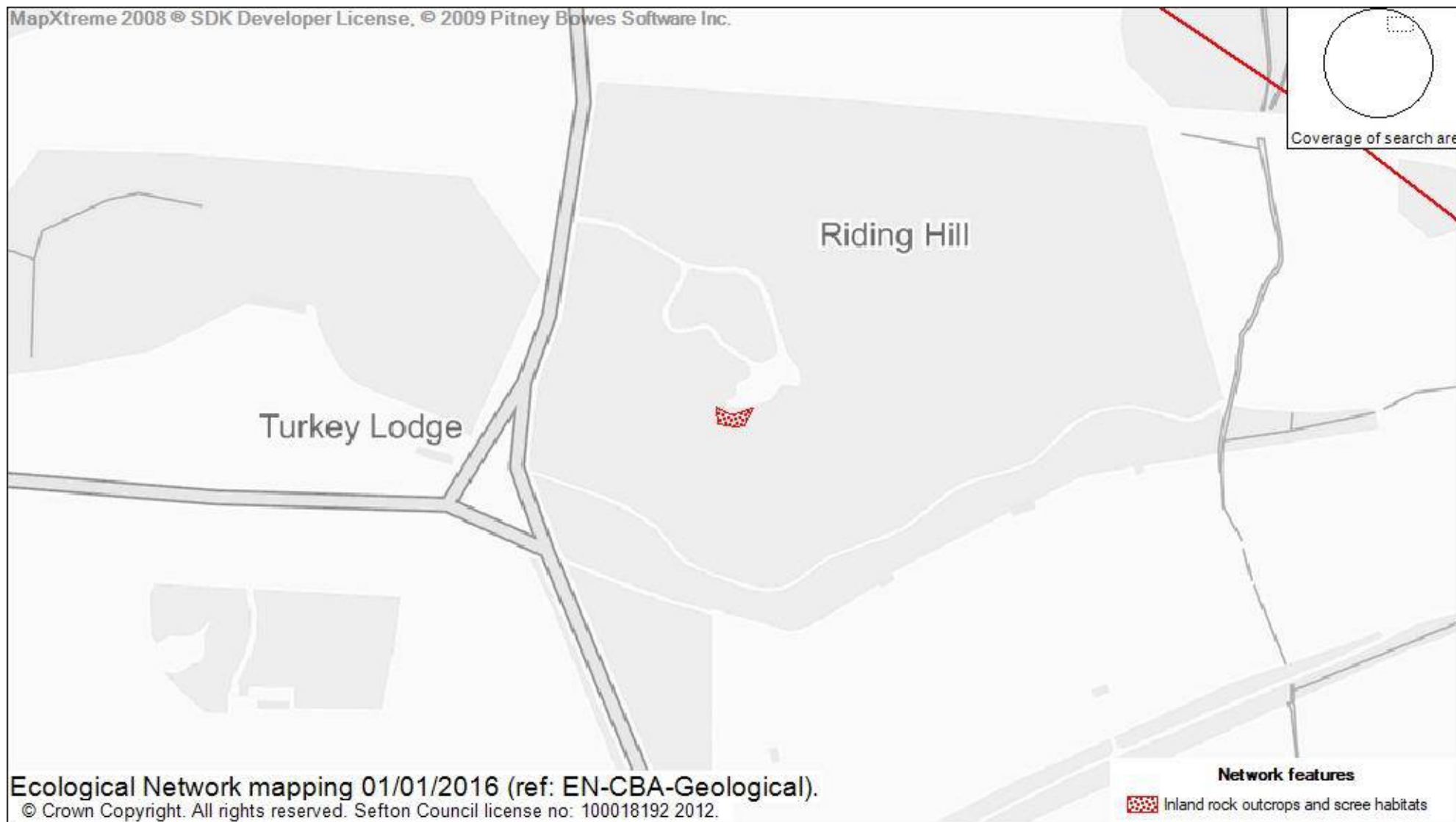
The following page(s) include maps to illustrate some of the results of your data request. They should be viewed in the context of the results supplied in the main body of the report.

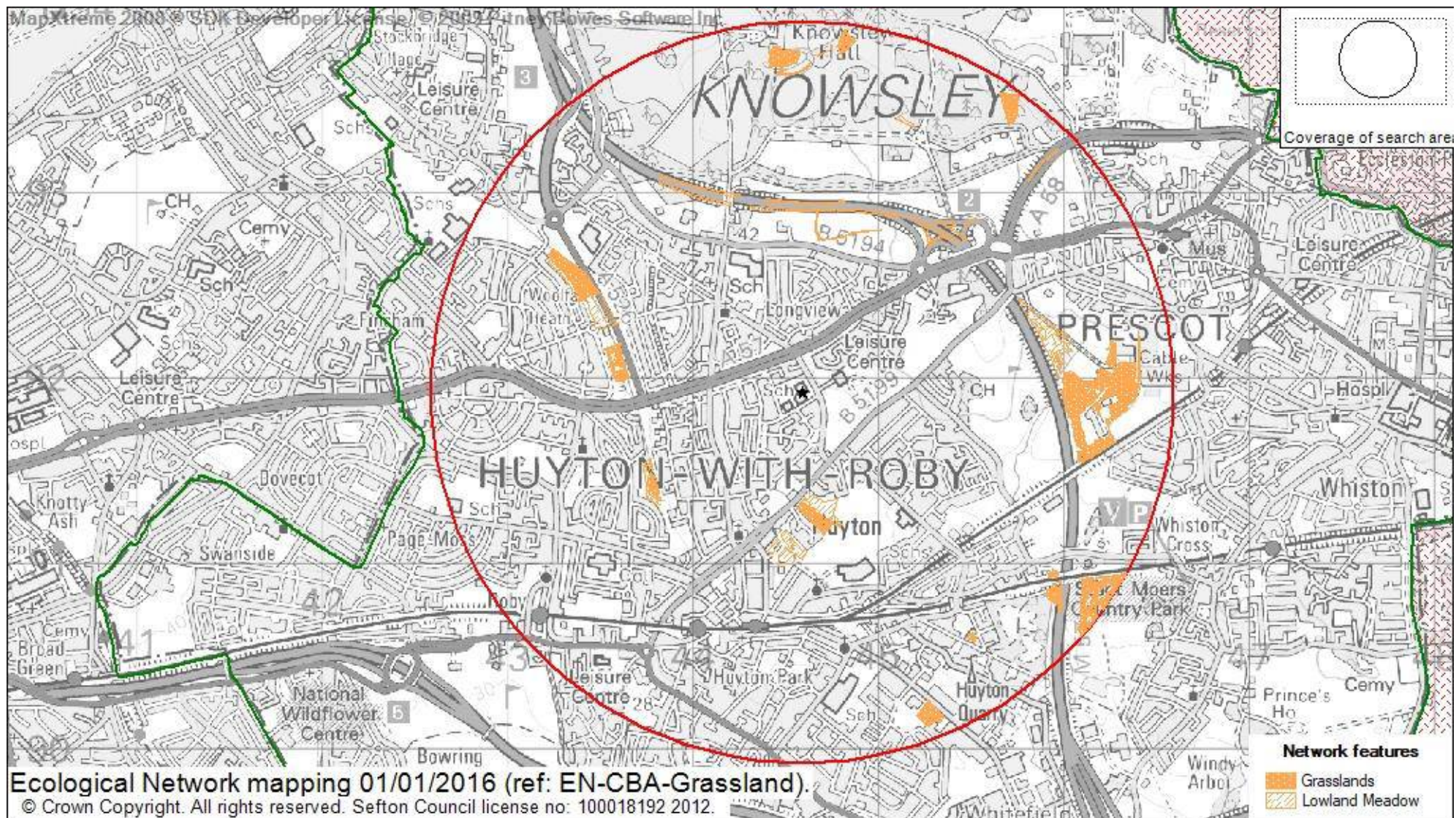
The Ordnance Survey mapping included in the maps provided by Merseyside BioBank under Sefton Council's licence from Ordnance Survey. These maps are provided to assist decision-makers in the effective and sustainable management of land, species and habitats. Ordnance Survey should be contacted directly if any of these maps are to be used in another document.

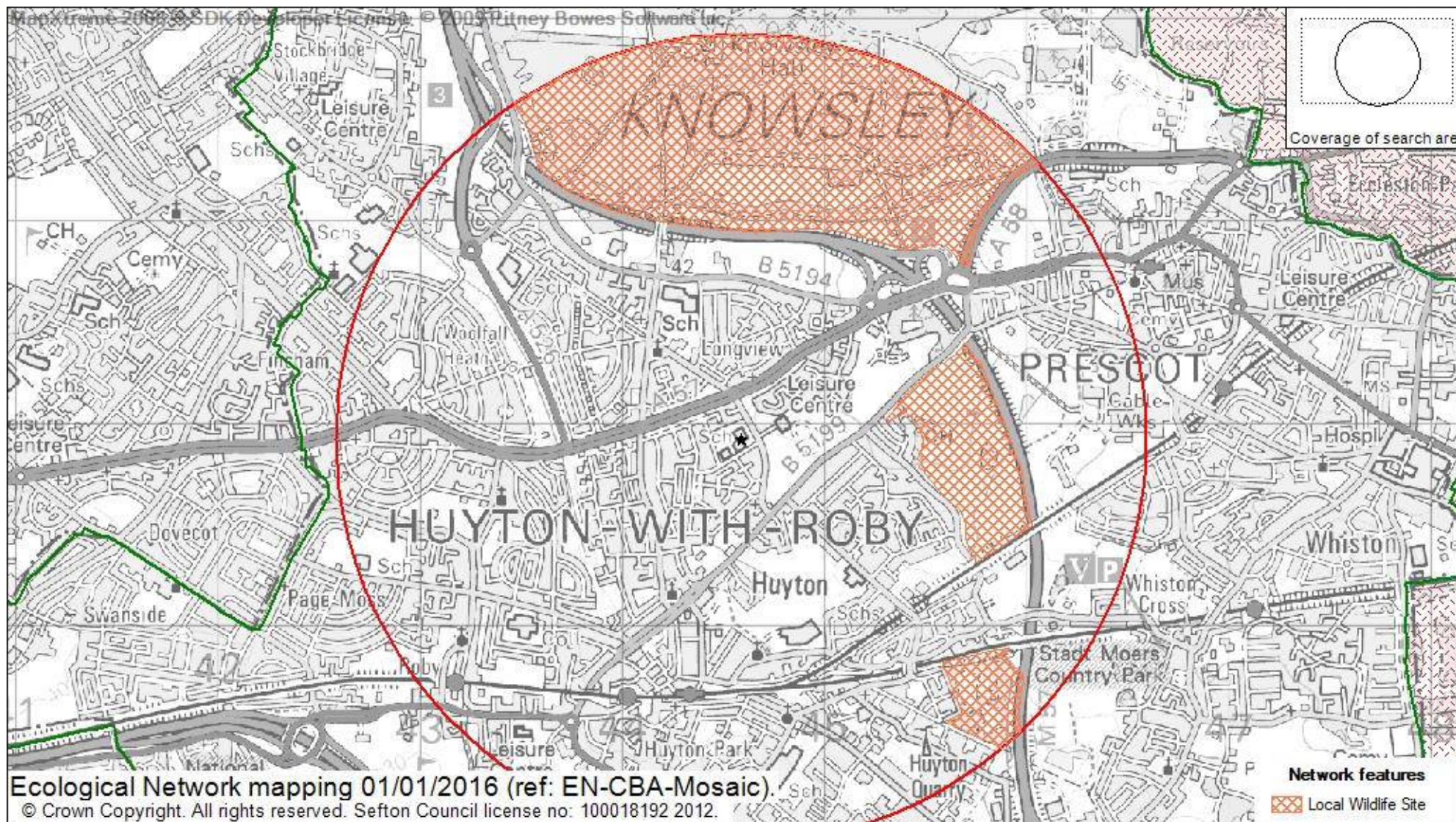


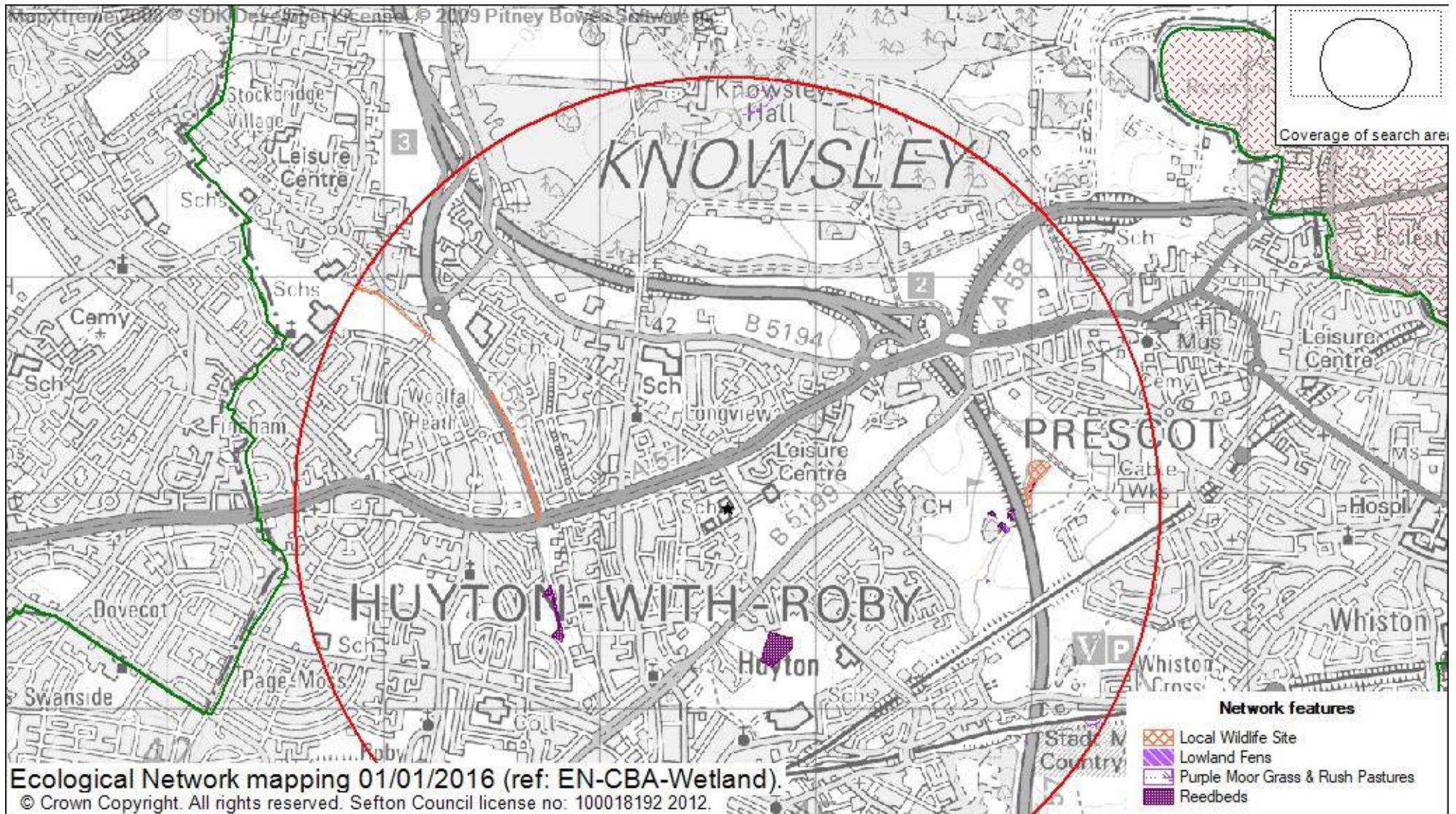


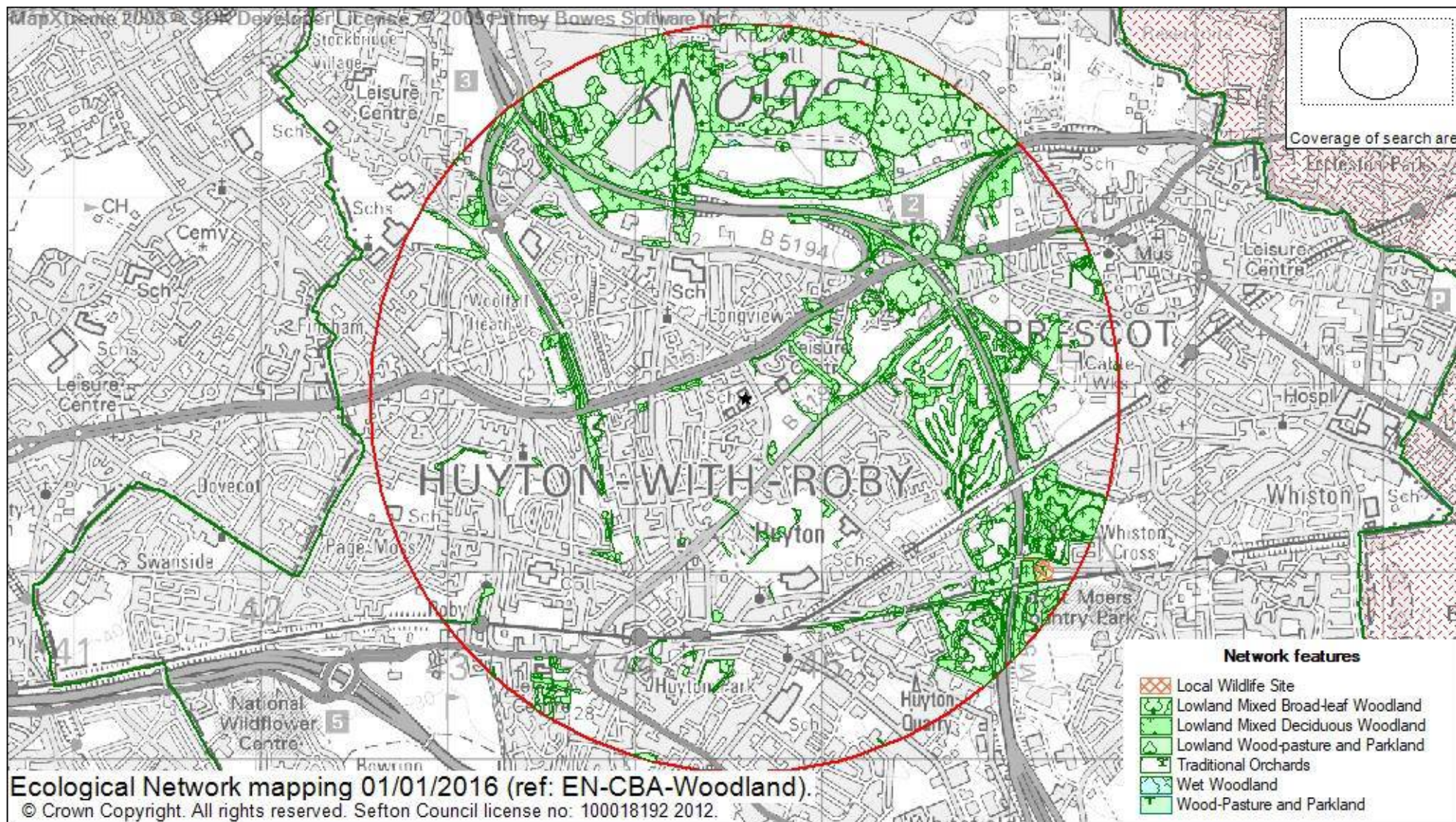


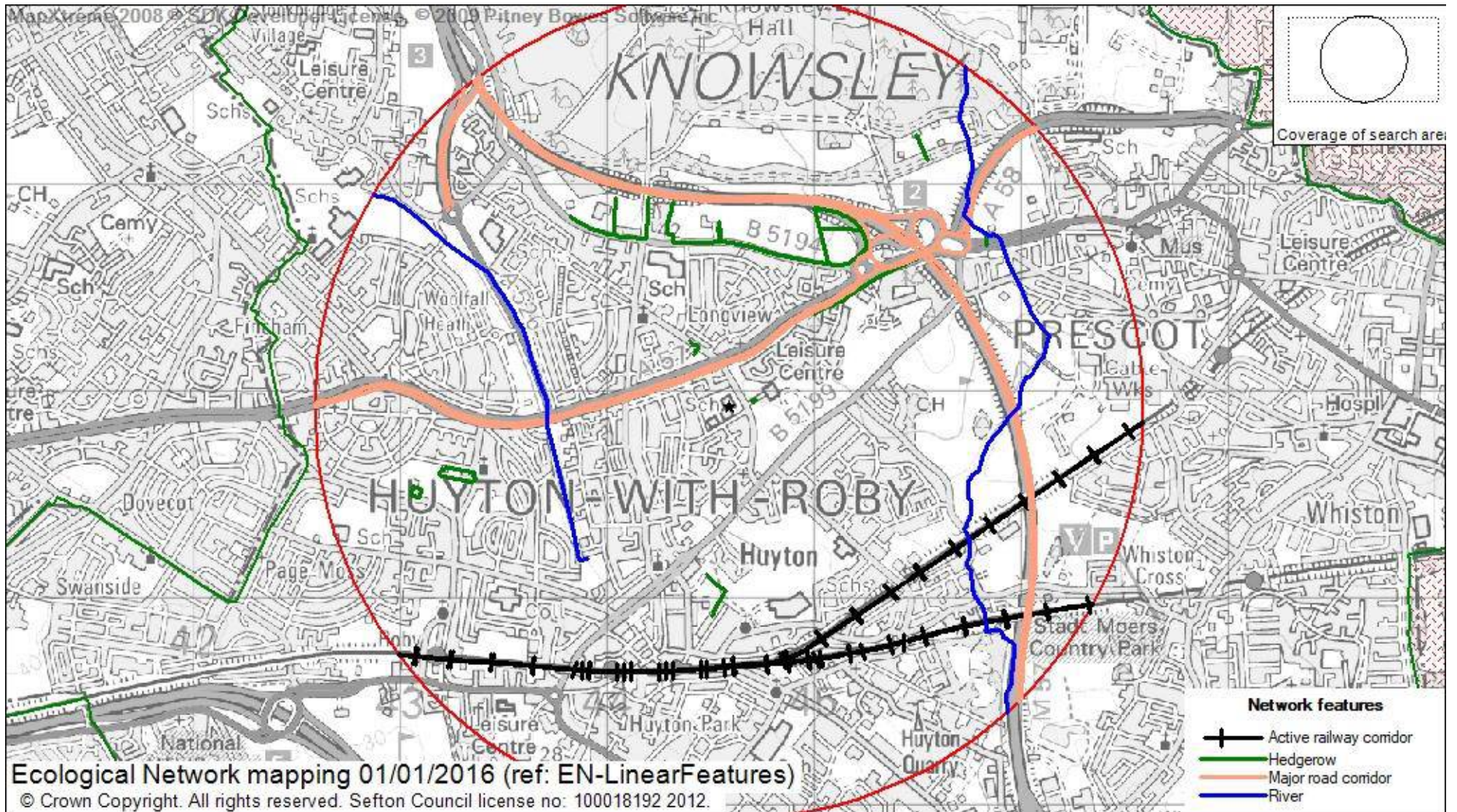


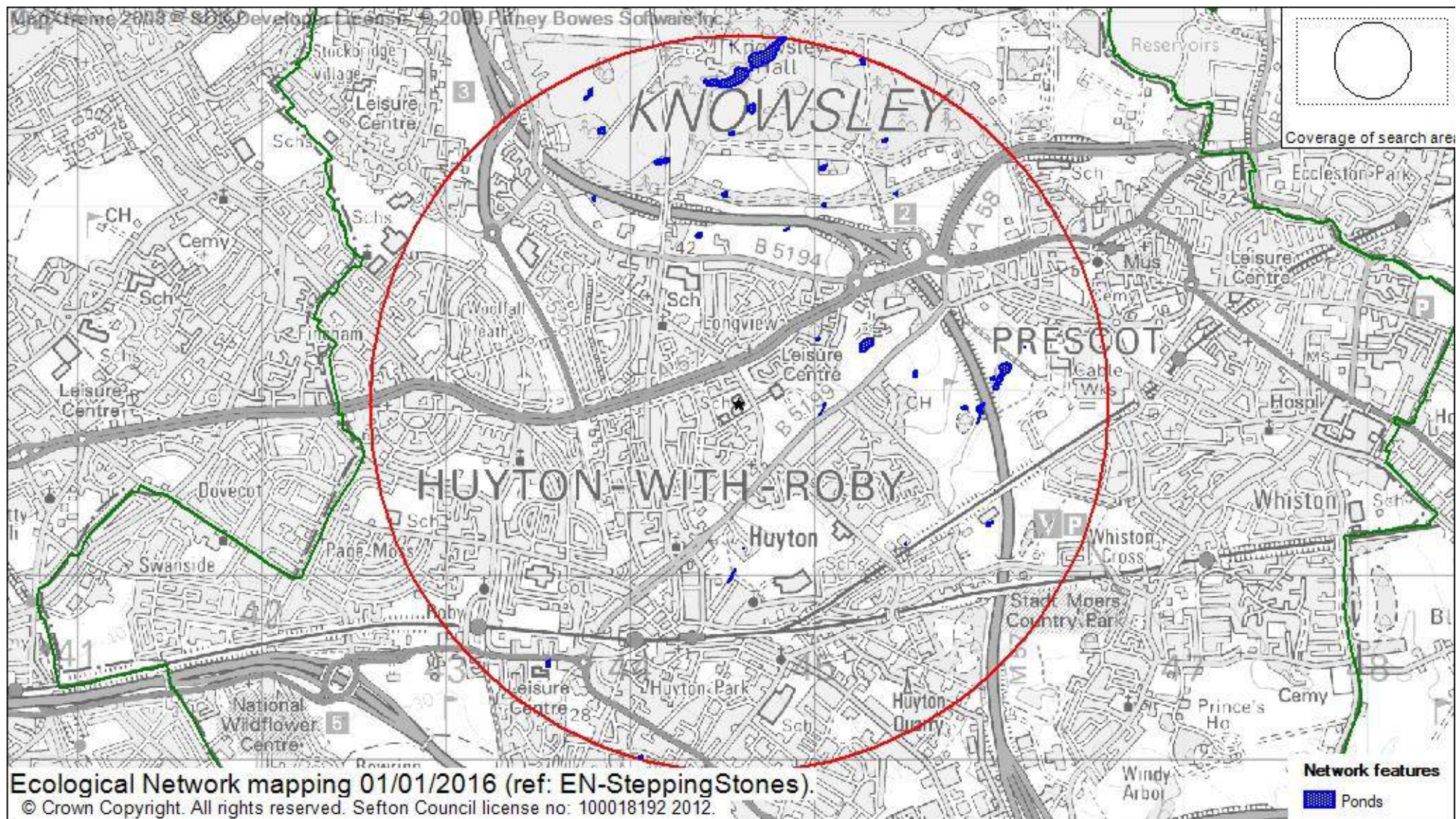


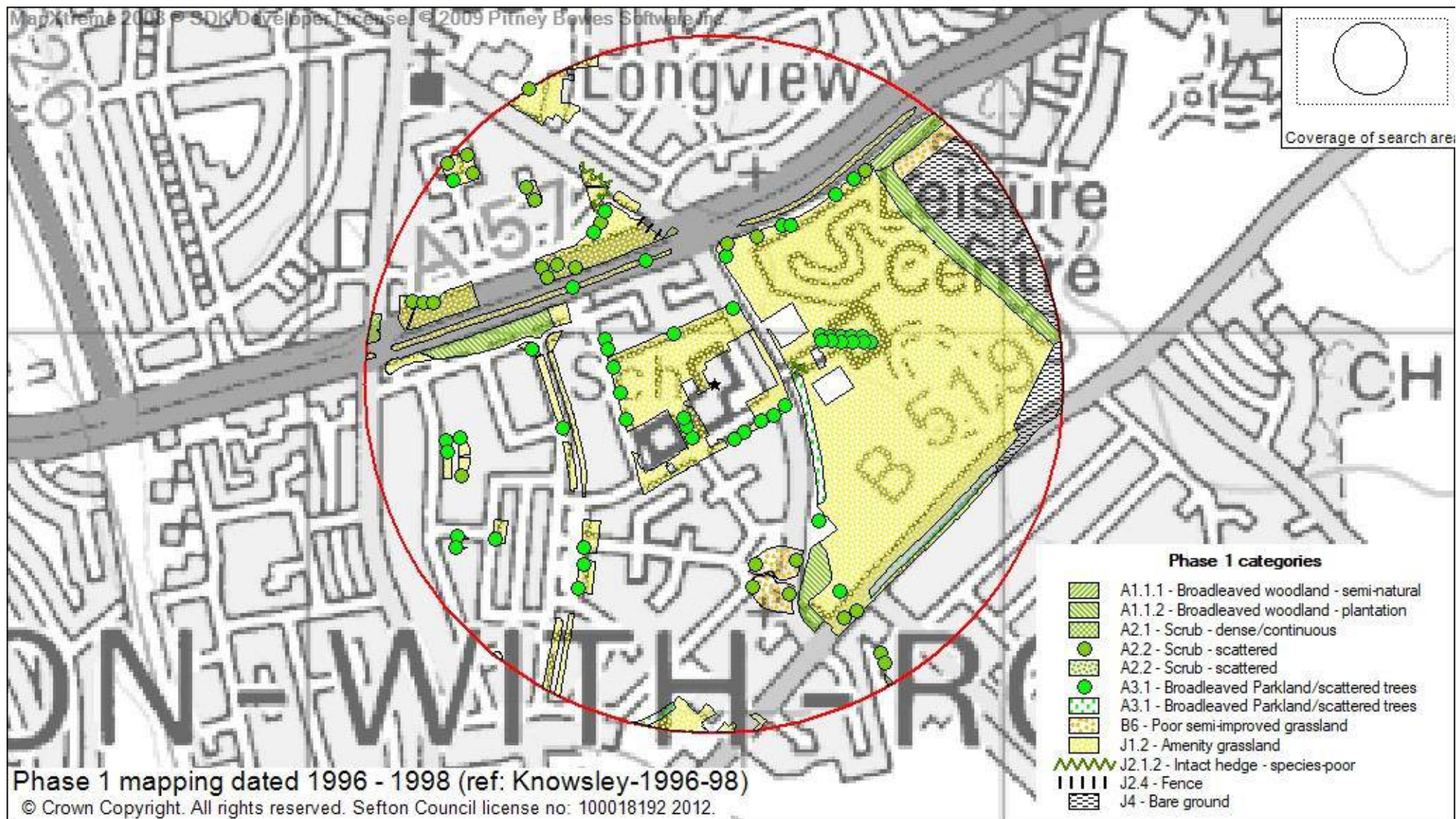


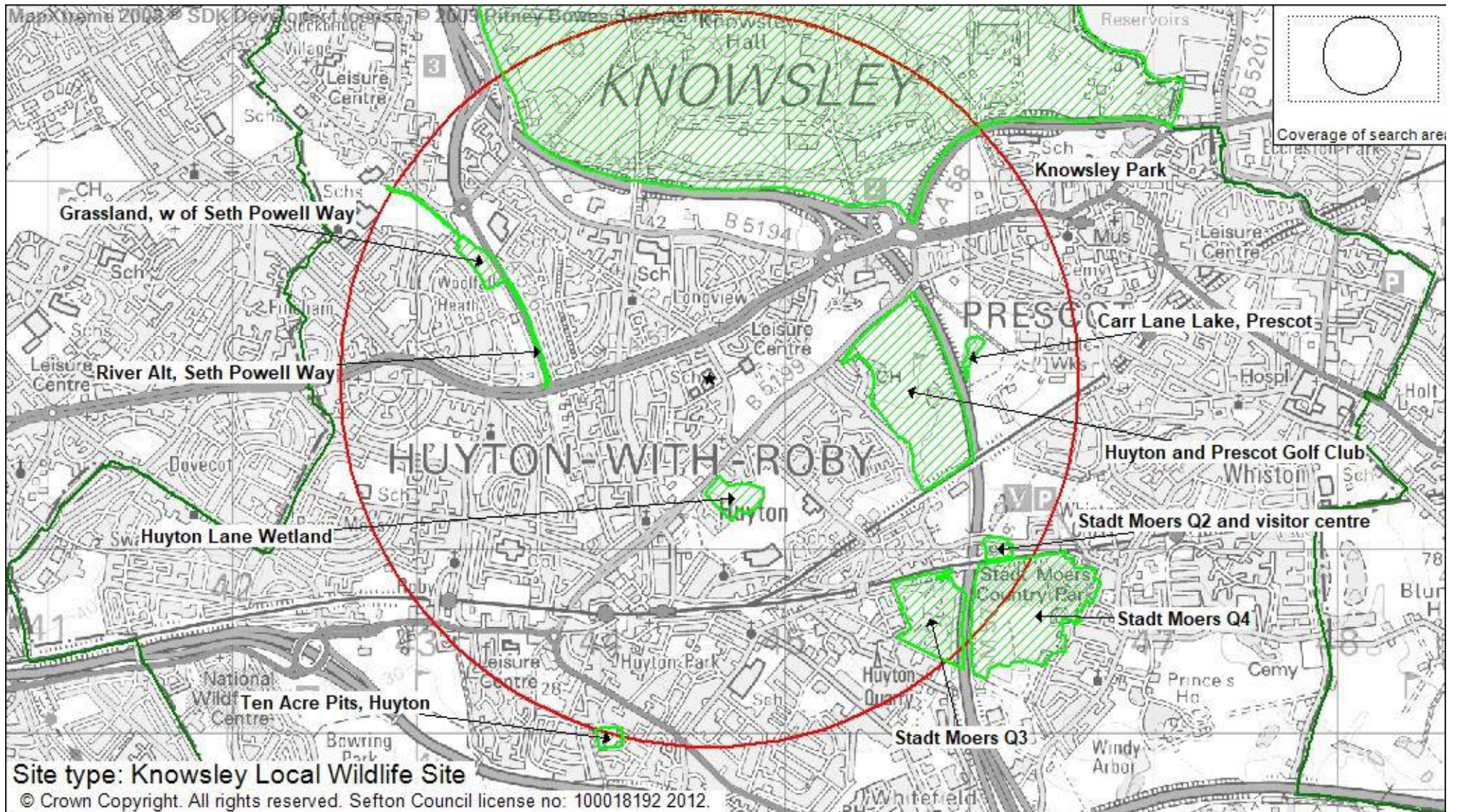


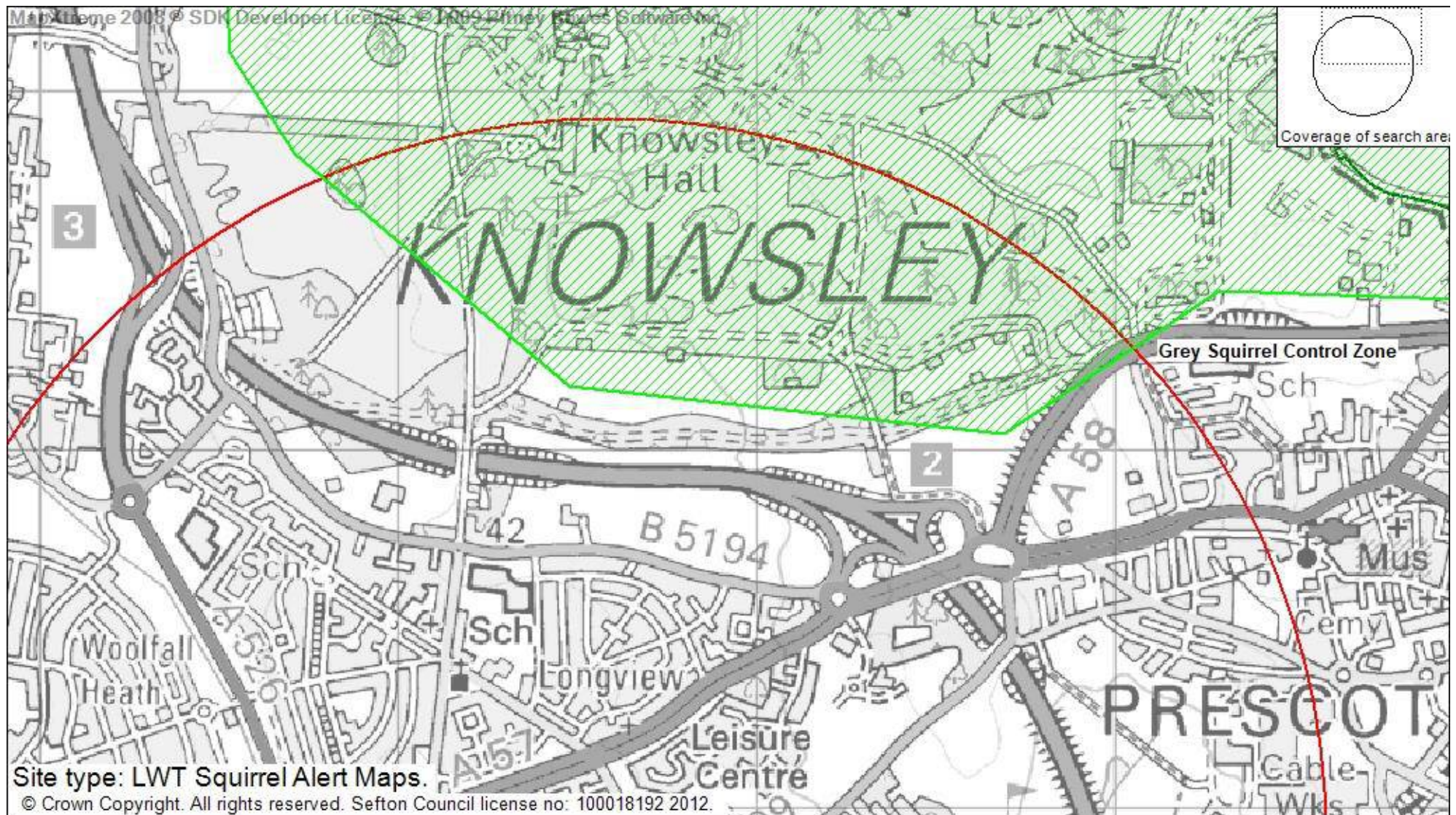


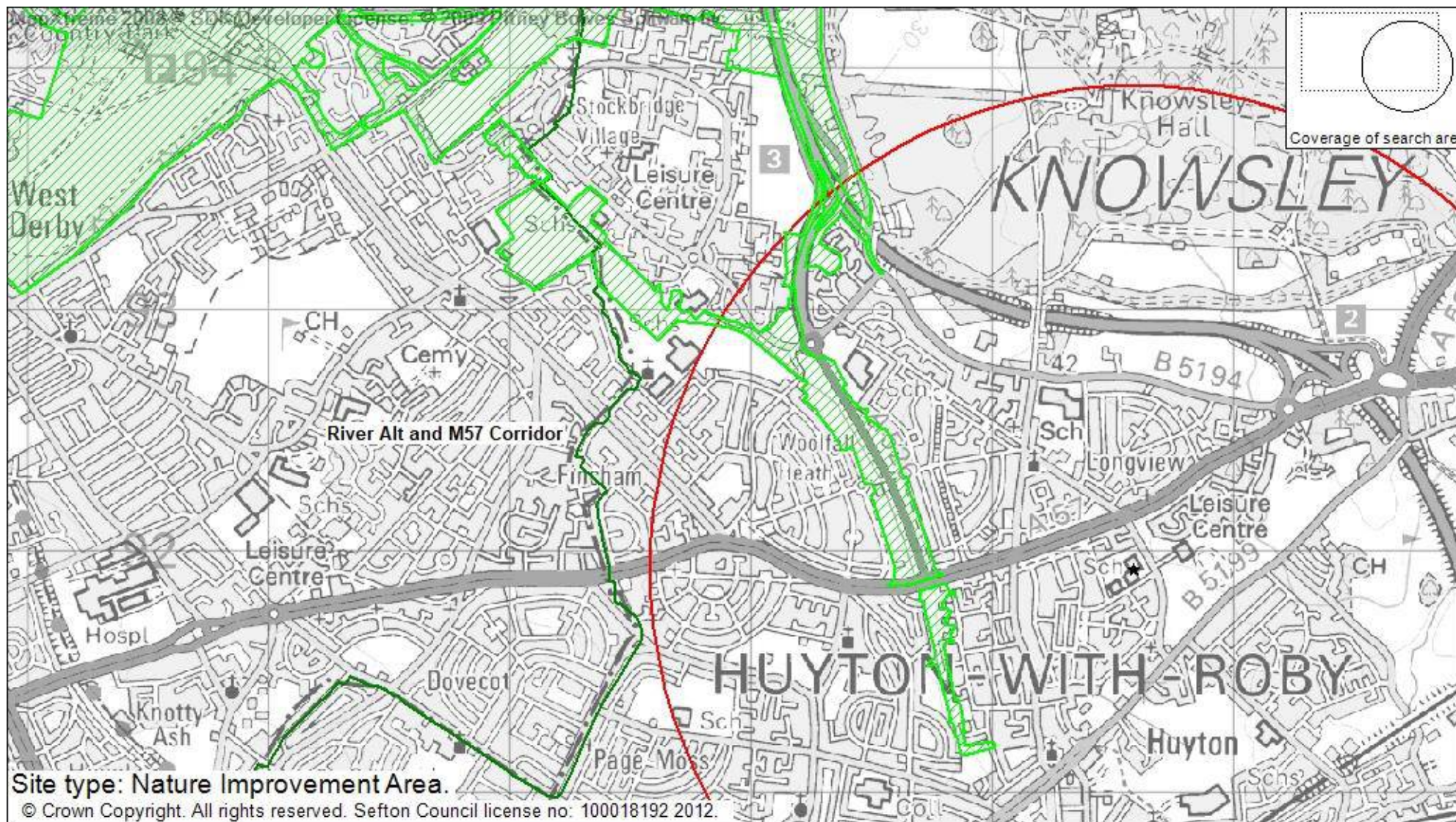












**Site Name:** Grassland, west of Seth Powell Way, Huyton

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

**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*)

***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

**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*)

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

**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.



**Site Name:** Stadt Moers Quadrant 3, Huyton

**Site Area:** 14.23 hectares

**National Grid Reference:** SJ457906

**Date of Designation:** 2003

**District:** Knowsley

**Date of Last Revision:** July 2003

**SBI Number:** 82

**CITATION:** A mix of grassland, scrub and woodland habitats forming part of the Country Park at Stadt Moers.

**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                                    | 1 Priority BAP Habitats, 1 regionally important.                                                                                 |
| H2;          | Diversity                                 | 9 habitats recorded.                                                                                                             |
| H3;          | Nearness                                  | --                                                                                                                               |
| H4.          | Isolation                                 | --                                                                                                                               |
| PLANTS       |                                           |                                                                                                                                  |
| SP1;         | Rarity                                    | 1 WCA Schedule 8; 1 species of conservation concern; 2 regionally important; 9 locally rare species.                             |
| SP2;         | Diversity                                 | Total of 105 plant species. One of 34 sites with 100 or more species.                                                            |
| SP3;         | Naturalness                               | 87.6% 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 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*)

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

**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

|                                                                            |                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 Biodiversity Action Plan habitat</b>                                  | Unimproved neutral grassland                     |
| <b>2 Regionally important habitats<br/>(North West Biodiversity Audit)</b> | Unimproved neutral grassland<br>Marshy grassland |

### Plants

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



**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

## **Ascerta**

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