



Liverpool City Council

# Simpson Ground

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Project No. 856282

NOVEMBER 2015



# RSK GENERAL NOTES

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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1. This report presents the results of ecological field surveys carried out in connection with a proposed development at Simpson Ground recreational area in south Liverpool.
2. A Phase 1 Habitat Survey and habitat assessment for protected vertebrates was carried out on 27 October 2015. A background data search (BDS) was also carried out to obtain any existing records of notable species or sites in the area.
3. The site mainly consists of an amenity grassland sports field, changing room building, car park, ruderal vegetation and trees. Stands of *Fallopia* cf. *xbohemica* (Hybrid Knotweed) and *Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam) are present on the boundary of the site.
4. On the site, there is habitat suitable for Badgers, bats and nesting birds.
5. Ecological restrictions relating to invasive plant species, bats and nesting birds are discussed.
6. The site should incorporate ecological enhancements which are listed in this report.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Purpose of this Report

This report presents the results of ecological field surveys and a background data search (BDS) undertaken in connection with a proposed development at Simpson Ground, Liverpool (Ordnance Survey grid reference (SJ 420 857). *Figure 1* shows the location of the c. 7.9 ha area referred to as 'the site' throughout this report. This report presents ecological information for the site and identifies potential ecological constraints on the proposed development.

## 1.2 Ecological Context

The site is a recreation ground in the south of Liverpool. It is predominantly amenity grassland used as playing fields but also includes car parking, changing room facilities and – on the boundary - tall ruderal vegetation and trees. It is bordered to the north by an area of rough grassland, to the east by Hillfoot Road, to the south by a cemetery, and to the west by woodland.

The surrounding area is predominantly made up of green open space including woodland, park land and cemeteries. Beyond are small commercial and residential properties in the Woolton area of south Liverpool

## 1.3 Structure of this Report

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- *Section 2* describes the survey and assessment methods;
- *Section 3* presents the survey results;
- *Section 4* evaluates the results;
- *Section 5* lists the references;
- *Section 6* provides the figures;
  
- *Appendix A* explains the protected species legislation;
- *Appendix B* presents the botanical target notes;
- *Appendix C* provides details of noteworthy species; and
- *Appendix D* provides details of the abbreviations used in the text.



## 2 METHODS

### 2.1 General

The Phase 1 Habitat Survey and habitat assessment for protected vertebrates was carried out by Will Holden on 27 October 2015 to standards for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal set out in CIEEM (2012). Will is a Senior Consultant with over 8 years' experience and a Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). The survey was carried out in suitable weather conditions.

The preliminary ecological appraisal included the following:

- a background data search (gathering information from national websites; local record centres, councils etc.; and local wildlife groups); and
- a field survey using the extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology.

### 2.2 Background Data Search

A search was made for reference materials relating to the ecology of Simpson Ground, a list of sources is given in *Table 1* below.

**Table 1: Data Sources**

Information Obtained	Available From
Protected and Noteworthy species-records	Merseyside BioBank
Designated site locations and citations	Natural England website
Designated site locations and citations	Merseyside BioBank
Designations and legal protection of noteworthy species	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website
North Merseyside Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Local BAP website <a href="http://www.merseysidebiodiversity.org.uk/">http://www.merseysidebiodiversity.org.uk/</a>

A search was made for information on statutory designated sites (often internationally and nationally important sites for ecology) and non-statutory designated sites (often important in a local context) within 1 km of the site boundary. A search was also made for records of noteworthy species within the same 1 km area. Species included in the search parameters are:

- European protected species (listed on *Schedules 2 and 4 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012*);
- nationally protected species under *Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981* and *The Protection of Badgers Act 1992*;

- species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable on the *IUCN Red List*
- all species listed on the RSPB *Birds of Conservation Concern 2002-2007* as Red or Amber;
- Nationally Rare or Nationally Scarce species;
- Notable invertebrates; and
- species of Principal Importance under *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)*, that have Action Plans under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) or are Priority Species under the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

## 2.3 Phase 1 Habitat Survey

The habitat survey centred on the Phase 1 Habitat Survey approach (Joint Nature Conservation Committee 2010) as extended for use in Environmental Impact Assessments (Institute of Environmental Assessment 1995). This involves the following elements.

- Habitat mapping using a set of standard colour codes to indicate habitat types on a Phase 1 Habitat Survey map (*Figure 1*).
- Description of features of possible ecological or nature conservation interest in notes relating to numbered locations on the Phase 1 Habitat Survey map, called 'Target Notes'. These are provided in *Appendix B*.

Basic Phase 1 Habitat Survey methods are described in detail in Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC 2010). Limits to the achievable reliability of the method are discussed in Cherrill & McClean (1999).

Plant nomenclature in this report follows Stace (2010) for native and naturalised species of vascular plant. Plant names in the text are given with scientific names first, followed by the English name in brackets.

Phase 1 surveys done in late autumn or winter (October to March) are considered sub-optimal. They can usually describe habitat types adequately, but many plant species (including invasive species) may be unidentifiable or altogether died-away. Out-of-season surveys often provide information sufficient to inform planning, but further survey in spring or summer may be required to confirm the evaluation.

### 2.3.1 Invasive Plant Species

Phase 1 Habitat Survey does not involve exhaustive surveying for any individual plant species. But if invasive plant species, *e.g.* *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese Knotweed), *Heracleum mantegazzianum* (Giant Hogweed), *Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam), were seen during the normal course of the survey they were noted and reported here.



## 2.4 Habitat Assessment for Protected Vertebrates

### 2.4.1 General

The suitability of the site for protected animals was assessed. Taking into account the location and habitats at the site, assessment was carried out for:

- Badger;
- bat species (foraging, commuting and roosting);
- nesting birds;

There is no habitat suitable for reptiles on the site and no ponds within 500 m of the site which are suitable for Great Crested Newts. There are no habitats suitable for Otters or Water Voles on the site.

Further details of the assessment methods are given below.

### 2.4.2 Badgers

In line with Harris *et al.* (1989), the site was assessed for Badgers. The survey was focused in areas that might be used by Badger (*Meles meles*) for commuting, foraging and sett-building. Signs of Badgers include setts, tracks, footprints, hair on barbed wire fences, feeding signs, and dung pits.

### 2.4.3 Bats

Habitat was assessed for commuting and foraging bats. Areas of particular interest vary between species, but generally include habitats with good numbers of insects, such as woodland, scrub, hedges, and species-rich or rough grassland (Hundt 2012).

Trees were assessed for their potential for roosting bats. Suitable features include cracks, splits and rot holes.

The building was assessed for suitability for roosting bats. This included an assessment of the exterior of the building for suitable features (e.g. gaps and holes in soffits or wooden cladding) and an inspection of the internal of the building for accessible roof voids. This survey did not constitute a full initial building inspection but has been used to identify whether further survey is required.

### 2.4.4 Nesting Birds

The site was assessed for nesting birds. Birds nest in a wide variety of habitats including scrub, woodland, hedges and trees, as well as on open ground.

## 2.5 Validity of Data

According to Natural England advice, survey data should not be over two years old for medium-high impact schemes or multi-plot or phased developments. Surveys up to four years old may be acceptable for low impact schemes (*i.e.* small areas of work or temporary land take), as long as the habitats have not changed significantly in that time period. Where a European Protected Species licence is required after the grant of planning permission, Natural England expects applicants to check - by walk-over survey

not more than three months before the submission of a licence application - that conditions have not changed significantly since surveys were carried out for the original planning application.

As the surveys were carried out in late autumn (October) some areas of invasive plant species may have been missed as they could have died-away.

## 3 RESULTS

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### 3.1 Background Data Search

#### 3.1.1 Biodiversity Action Plans

The latest North Merseyside Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) lists 16 Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and 28 Species / Grouped Species Action Plans (SAPs). The local HAPs and SAPs that are relevant to the proposed development are;

Habitats:

- Lowland Mixed Broad-leaf Woodland
- Urban Trees
- Urban Grasslands

Species:

- Urban Birds
- Bats

#### 3.1.2 Designated Sites

##### 3.1.2.1 Statutory Sites

There is one statutory designated site within 1 km of the site boundary, namely Allerton (Eric Hardy) Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Allerton (Eric Hardy) LNR is to the west of the site boundary and covers the woodland within the site boundary.

Allerton (Eric Hardy) LNR is an area of largely native broadleaved woodland, planted in the early 1980s, and unimproved neutral grassland. The woodland is dominated by *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore), *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech) and *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak). The woodland has a well developed understorey, mostly of *Sambucus nigra* (Elder) and *Sorbus aucuparia* (Rowan). The unimproved neutral grassland has a good diversity of species, including *Centaurea nigra* (Common Knapweed) and *Lotus corniculatus* (Common Bird's-foot-trefoil). There is a deep gully which marks the channel of a flood drain flanked by narrow plantation woodland. Species of note in the ground flora include *Conopodium majus* (Pignut), *Dryopteris affinis* (Golden-scaled Male-fern), *Mercurialis perennis* (Dog's Mercury) and *Polystichum aculeatum* (Hard Shield-fern). There is also abundant *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese Knotweed). The amount of fallen and standing dead wood is locally notable and supports a variety of fungi. The site is important for birds; species include Bullfinch, Siskin and Lesser Redpoll. The site also supports a range of common grassland and woodland butterfly species.

##### 3.1.2.2 Non-statutory Sites

There are six non-statutory and proposed non-statutory designated sites within 1 km of the site boundary, comprising one Local Wildlife Site (LWS), one Proposed Local

Wildlife Site (PropLWS), three Potential Local Wildlife Sites (PotLWSs) and one Local Geological Site (LGS). These sites are listed in *Table 2* in order of proximity to the site; short descriptions are given for the LWSs.

**Table 2: Non-Statutory Sites within 1 km of the Site Boundary**

Site Name	Designation	Approximate Distance (m)
Hillfoot Road & Simpsons Pavillion	LWS	On site
Hillfoot Road & Simpsons Pavillion LWS covers much of the same area as Allerton (Eric Hardy) LNR, as described above, and also includes Springwood Crematorium and the field to the north of the site boundary, next to Hillfoot Road.		
Eric Hardy LNR and Clark Gardens	PropLWS	On site
Eric Hardy LNR and Clark Gardens PropLWS covers much of the same area as Allerton (Eric Hardy) LNR, as described above, and also includes Allerton Hall and Clark Gardens and the field to the north of the site boundary, next to Hillfoot Road.		
Woolton Manor, Woolton Woods & Camp Hill	PotLWS	10
Woolton Manor, Woolton Woods & Camp Hill PotLWS is on the other side of Hillfoot Road, to the east of Simpson Ground.		
Allerton Cemetery	PotLWS	150
Land within Allerton Green Wedge	PotLWS	270
Woolton Quarry, Quarry Street, Woolton	LGS	930

### 3.1.2.3 Other Notable Sites

There are no areas of ancient woodland within 1 km of the site boundary.

### 3.1.3 Protected and Noteworthy Species

At least 56 noteworthy species are recorded from places within 1 km of the site boundary. Of these, 3 are amphibians, 11 are birds, 27 are invertebrates, 8 are plants, 1 is a fungus and at least 6 are mammals. Species that are protected by law under *Schedules 2 and 4 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012*, *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* or *The Protection of Badgers Act 1992* and have been recorded in the search area are listed in the table below; a full species list is given in *Appendix C*.

**Table 3: Protected Species Records within 1 km of the Site Boundary**

Latin Name	Common Name	Designation	Number of records	Most recent Date	Within 100m	Within 1km
<b>Amphibians</b>						
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	WCA5.9.5	1	1983		P
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	Smooth Newt	WCA5.9.5	3	1996		☒
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog	WCA5.9.5	4	2015		☒

Latin Name	Common Name	Designation	Number of records	Most recent Date	Within 100m	Within 1 km
<b>Birds</b>						
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	WCA1.1	1	1998		<b>P</b>
<b>Plants</b>						
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	WCA8	23	2015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Mammals</b>						
Chiroptera	Bats	EPS (Sch2)	6	1990	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>
<i>Meles meles</i>	Eurasian Badger	BA	6	2010	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule Bat	EPS (Sch2), WCA5.9.1	2	1988	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Common Pipistrelle	EPS (Sch2), WCA5.9.1	6	2007		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Pipistrellus</i> sp.	a Pipistrelle bat	EPS (Sch2), WCA5.9.1	10	1993	<b>P</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Eurasian Red Squirrel	WCA5.9.1	7	2008	<b>P</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note - **P** relates to records with 4 figure or tetrad grid references that could potentially be anywhere within a 1 km or 2 km square.

## 3.2 Habitats

### 3.2.1 General

The target notes referenced below are given in *Appendix B*. The habitats are mapped in *Figure 1*. Within the site boundary there are the following habitats and vegetation:

- amenity grassland;
- ruderal vegetation; and
- woodland and scattered trees.

### 3.2.2 Amenity Grassland

The majority of the site is amenity grassland (*Target Note 1*) forming playing fields. The grassland typically has a short, dense sward, c. 2 cm high and is regularly mown. It is dominated by *Lolium perenne* (Perennial Rye-grass) with some *Holcus lanatus* (Yorkshire-fog) and broad-leaved herbs including *Achillea millefolium* (Yarrow) and *Bellis perennis* (Daisy).

### 3.2.3 Tall Ruderal Vegetation

The northern and western boundary of the amenity grassland includes areas of dense ruderal vegetation and scrub. This forms a buffer between the amenity grassland and the woodland and hedgerows beyond.

The northern boundary of the site (*Target Note 4*) is more dominated by scrub than the western boundary. This includes *Sambucus nigra* (Elder) with a field-layer of *Dactylis glomerata* (Cock's-foot), *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (Bramble) and *Urtica dioica* (Common Nettle).

The western boundary of the site has denser ruderal vegetation c. 1.5 m high (*Target Note 7*). This is dominated by *Chamerion angustifolium* (Rosebay Willowherb) and *Urtica dioica* (Common Nettle). It also contains scattered patches of *Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam) throughout.

### 3.2.4 Woodland and Scattered Trees

The western boundary of the site, beyond the ruderal vegetation, is composed of an area of dense woodland. This is on a steep bank sloping away from the site into a valley with a footpath at the base. The woodland is predominantly semi-mature and mature trees including *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore) and *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak).

There are also scattered mature and semi-mature trees around the site. These include *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse-chestnut), *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech) and a line of *Populus* sp (Poplar) along the southern boundary.

## 3.3 Non-native Invasive Plant Species

There are several stands of invasive species around the boundary of the site.

There are two stands of *Fallopia* cf. *xbohemica* (Hybrid Knotweed) in the scrub along the northern boundary of the site (*Target Note 3*). In addition there is a large stand of *Fallopia* cf. *xbohemica* (Hybrid Knotweed) and several smaller stands in the ruderal vegetation at the west of the site (*Target Note 6*).

There are patches of *Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam) with the ruderal vegetation along the western boundary of the site. There are some larger discrete patches of *Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam) present (*Target Note 5*), but it is present as scattered plants throughout the ruderal vegetation along this boundary.

## 3.4 Assessment for Protected Species

### 3.4.1 Badger

No signs of Badgers, or Badger setts were recorded on the site.

### 3.4.2 Bats

The trees on the site are all in good condition and do not have any features suitable for roosting bats.

The building on the site is constructed of brick and concrete with a flat roof (*Target Note 2*). There is a water tower on the roof. The building has a false ceiling with only one access point into the roof void in the female toilets on the northern side of the building.



There are several gaps and holes in the brickwork at the roof line, around the building, particularly along the northern aspect.

The line of trees along the southern boundary of the site and woodland and scrub along the northern and western boundary are a suitable foraging and commuting route for bats.

### **3.4.3 Birds**

No nests were recorded on the site. The building has some features suitable for nesting birds. The trees, scrub and ruderal vegetation are suitable for nesting birds and birds almost certainly use these areas for nesting. The open amenity grassland is not suitable for ground-nesting birds.

## 4 EVALUATION

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### 4.1 Designated Sites

The nearest statutory designated site, Allerton (Eric Hardy) Local Nature Reserve (LNR), is west of the site boundary and includes part of the woodland adjacent to the site.

In addition, there are six non-statutory and proposed non-statutory designated sites within 1 km of the site; the nearest, Hillfoot Road & Simpsons Pavillion and Eric Hardy LNR and Clark Gardens, are on the site.

The works will not impact on the area of woodland and are ecologically remote from all designated sites. Therefore no designated sites will be affected by the development.

### 4.2 Habitats and Plants

The habitats on the site are common, widespread and of low ecological and botanical value.

### 4.3 Invasive Species

If any works are required within 7 m of the invasive species, a method statement will be required before the works can proceed.

It is suggested that a treatment regime (spraying with an appropriate herbicide) is undertaken to prevent further spread of these invasive species.

### 4.4 Protected Species

#### 4.4.1 Badger

No evidence of Badgers was recorded on the site. The survey was sufficient to show that Badgers are not present on the site and no further action is required with regard to Badgers.

#### 4.4.2 Bats

No trees suitable for roosting bats were recorded on the site.

The assessment of the building has recorded suitable roosting features. As this building is to be demolished, further bat emergence surveys will be required to determine whether bats are using the building. These surveys can only be carried out between mid-April and September (inclusive). If bats are recorded using the building, a European Protected Species licence will be required prior to demolition.

#### **4.4.3 Birds**

The building, trees, scrub and ruderal vegetation are suitable for nesting birds. Removal of any nesting habitat (trees and scrub) or demolition of the building should only take place outside the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive). If this is not possible, areas of suitable nesting habitat should be hand searched by a suitably experienced ecologist prior to removal. Any nests would need to be retained until the young had fledged, and fenced off to prevent disturbance.

### **4.5 Ecological Enhancements**

In line with the latest planning guidance (The National Planning Policy Framework – NPPF) the proposed development should include carefully considered ecological enhancements. There are numerous opportunities on the site including:

- retaining and enhancing the line of trees along the southern boundary of the site;
- erection of bird nest boxes on the retained semi-mature tree and mature trees; and
- eradication of Hybrid Knotweed and Indian Balsam on the site boundary.

## 5 REFERENCES

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## 6 FIGURES

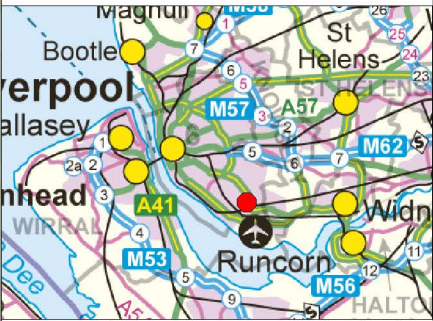
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Figure 1. Phase 1 Habitat Map with target notes





- Site boundary
- Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland
- Scattered broad-leaved tree
- Tall ruderal
- Invasive species
- Amenity grassland
- Building
- Bare ground
- Target note

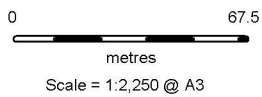


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Liverpool Playing Fields



Figure 1  
Phase 1 Habitat Map with Target Notes  
Simpson Ground



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## APPENDIX A – RELEVANT LEGISLATION

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### General

This section briefly describes the legal protection afforded to the protected species referred to in this report. It is for information only and is not intended to be comprehensive or to replace specialised legal advice. It is not intended to replace the text of the legislation, but summarises the salient points.

### Badger

*Meles meles* (Badger) is protected in Britain under the *Protection of Badgers Act 1992* and *Schedule 6 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended).

The legislation affords protection to Badgers and Badger setts, and makes it a criminal offence to:

- wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a Badger, or to attempt to do so;
- interfere with a sett by damaging or destroying it;
- to obstruct access to, or any entrance of, a Badger sett; or
- to disturb a Badger when it is occupying a sett.

### Bats

All species of British bat are protected by *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*, extended by the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*. This legislation makes it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take;
- possess or control;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place; and
- intentionally or recklessly disturb whilst the animal occupies a breeding site or resting place.

Bats are also European Protected Species listed on *The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)*. This legislation makes it an offence to:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill;
- deliberately disturb, including in particular any disturbance which is likely (a) to impair their ability - (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or (ii)

hibernate or migrate, where relevant; or (b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place; and
- possess, control, transport, sell, exchange, or offer for sale or exchange.

## **Birds**

### **Birds general protection**

All species of bird are protected under *Section 1* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). The protection was extended by the CRow Act.

The legislation makes it an offence to intentionally:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

### **Birds (specially protected species)**

Certain species of bird are listed on *Schedule 1* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and receive protection under *Sections 1(4)* and *1(5)* of the Act. The protection was extended by the CRow Act. The legislation confers special penalties where the above mentioned offences are committed for any such bird and also make it an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb any such bird, whilst building its nest or it is in or near a nest containing dependant young; or
- disturb the dependant young of such a bird.

## APPENDIX B – BOTANICAL TARGET NOTES

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*Target Note 1.* An amenity-grassland playing field occupying the majority of the site. The sward is c. 2 cm high and regularly mown. It is dominated by *Lolium perenne* (Perennial Rye-grass) with some patches of *Holcus lanatus* (Yorkshire-fog), and is typically species-poor containing only a small number of broad-leaved herbs. These include *Achillea millefolium* (Yarrow), *Bellis perennis* (Daisy), *Plantago major* (Greater Plantain), *Ranunculus repens* (Creeping Buttercup), *Taraxacum* sect. *Ruderalia* (Common Dandelion) and *Trifolium repens* (White Clover).

*Target Note 2.* A building containing changing rooms, offices, toilets and a boiler room. This is a single-storey building constructed from brick and concrete with a flat, felt roof. There is a water tower on the roof of the building. There are several gaps and missing bricks along the roof line at the north of the building. There is an enclosed roof space with only a single access point in the female toilets.

*Target Note 3.* A c.3 m x 10 m stand of *Fallopia* cf. *×bohemica* (Hybrid Knotweed) in scrub and ruderal vegetation.

*Target Note 4.* A line of trees, scrub and ruderal vegetation along the northern boundary of the site. This is dominated by *Sambucus nigra* (Elder) and *Urtica dioica* (Common Nettle). Also present are *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore), *Cirsium vulgare* (Spear Thistle), *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn), *Dactylis glomerata* (Cock's-foot), *Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort Plantain) and *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (Bramble).

*Target Note 5.* A small stand of *Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam) c.2 m x 2 m within the ruderal vegetation at the north-western corner of the site. *Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam) is also present as scattered plants throughout the ruderal vegetation.

*Target Note 6.* A large stand of *Fallopia* cf. *×bohemica* (Hybrid Knotweed) c.20 m x 15 m within the ruderal vegetation. There are also several other scattered patches in the ruderal vegetation.

*Target Note 7.* Dense ruderal vegetation bordering the amenity grassland along the western edge of the site. This area is dominated by *Chamerion angustifolium* (Rosebay Willowherb) and *Urtica dioica* (Common Nettle). Also present are *Buddleja davidii* (Butterfly-bush) and *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (Bramble). The vegetation is dense and c.1.5 m high. It contains a large stand and scattered patches of *Fallopia* cf. *×bohemica* (Hybrid Knotweed) as well as *Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam) throughout. The ruderal vegetation borders an area of dense woodland on the western boundary of the site. This is dominated by *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak) with some *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore).

## APPENDIX C – NOTEWORTHY SPECIES RECORDS

Table A1 displays noteworthy species records that are located within 1 km of the site boundary. These species records were obtained from Merseyside BioBank. The Latin and common names for species are given as well as their level of designation. A glossary defining abbreviations used in the table is given in Table A2, Appendix D. If a species is not included in the table below it does not necessarily mean the species is absent from the search area, but rather that data-holding organizations do not have records of it in these locations.

**Table A1: Noteworthy Species Records within 1 km of the Site Boundary**

Latin Name	Common Name	Designation
<b>Amphibians</b>		
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	WCA5.9.5, UKBAP
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	Smooth Newt	WCA5.9.5
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog	WCA5.9.5
<b>Birds</b>		
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	Amber, LBAP
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin	Amber, LBAP
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Linnet	Red, UKBAP
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	Red, UKBAP, LBAP
<i>Poecile montana</i>	Willow Tit	Red, UKBAP
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	Amber, UKBAP
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	Amber, UKBAP
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	Red, UKBAP, LBAP
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	Red, UKBAP, LBAP
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	WCA1.1, Amber
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	Red, UKBAP, LBAP
<b>Plants</b>		
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile	RDB (EN)
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	UKBAP
<i>Fumaria purpurea</i>	Purple Ramping-fumitory	UKBAP, NS, LBAP
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	RDB (VU)
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	WCA8, LBAP
<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	Welsh Poppy	NS
<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	Pillwort	UKBAP, NS
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Corn Spurrey	RDB (VU)
<b>Fungi</b>		
<i>Rubinoletus rubinus</i>	Rubinoletus rubinus	RDB (VU)

Latin Name	Common Name	Designation
<b>Invertebrates</b>		
<i>Acidota cruentata</i>	Acidota cruentata	Notable:B
<i>Acrotona obfuscata</i>	Acrotona obfuscata	Notable
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Southern Hawker	LBAP
<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	Brown Hawker	LBAP
<i>Anax imperator</i>	Emperor Dragonfly	LBAP
<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	Azure Damselfly	LBAP
<i>Elaphropus parvulus</i>	Elaphropus parvulus	Notable:B
<i>Euplectus bonvouloiri subsp. rosae</i>	Euplectus bonvouloiri subsp. rosae	Notable
<i>Falagria sulcatula</i>	Falagria sulcatula	Notable
<i>Grypus equiseti</i>	Horsetail Weevil	Notable:B
<i>Gyrophana congrua</i>	Gyrophana congrua	Notable
<i>Gyrophana strictula</i>	Gyrophana strictula	Notable
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed Damselfly	LBAP
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall	UKBAP
<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	Emerald Damselfly	LBAP
<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Broad-bodied Chaser	LBAP
<i>Melanapion minimum</i>	Sallow Guest Weevil	UKBAP, Notable:B
<i>Microdota benickiella</i>	Microdota benickiella	Notable
<i>Oligota apicata</i>	Oligota apicata	Notable
<i>Oxypoda exoleta</i>	Oxypoda exoleta	Notable
<i>Oxypoda flavicornis</i>	Oxypoda flavicornis	Notable
<i>Philhygra deformis</i>	Philhygra deformis	Notable
<i>Pseudomedon obscurellus</i>	Pseudomedon obscurellus	Notable
<i>Quedius (Microsaurus) truncicola</i>	Quedius (Microsaurus) truncicola	Notable:B
<i>Scaphidema metallicum</i>	Scaphidema metallicum	Notable:B
<i>Sunius melanocephalus</i>	Sunius melanocephalus	Notable
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common Darter	LBAP
<b>Mammals</b>		
Chiroptera	Bats	EPS (Sch2), LBAP
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	West European Hedgehog	UKBAP
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown Hare	UKBAP, LBAP
<i>Meles meles</i>	Eurasian Badger	BA
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule Bat	EPS (Sch2), WCA5.9.1, UKBAP, LBAP
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Common Pipistrelle	EPS (Sch2), WCA5.9.1, LBAP
<i>Pipistrellus</i> sp.	a Pipistrelle bat	EPS (Sch2), WCA5.9.1, LBAP
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Eurasian Red Squirrel	WCA5.9.1, UKBAP, LBAP

## APPENDIX D – ABBREVIATIONS

Table A2 displays abbreviations of protected species legislation.

**Table A2: Glossary of Abbreviations Used in this Report:**

Code	Full Title	Explanation
Amber	Amber list	Amber listed species have a population status in the UK of medium conservation concern.
BA	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Legislation making it an offence to kill, injure or take a Badger, or to damage or interfere with a sett unless a licence is obtained from a statutory authority.
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan	A plan that identifies threats to significantly important species and habitats, and sets out targets and actions to enhance or maintain biodiversity.
DA	The Deer Act 1991	All wild deer with the exception of Muntjac ( <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i> ) and Chinese Water deer ( <i>Hydropotes inermis</i> ) are protected by a closed season.
EPS (Sch 2)	European Protected Species (Schedule 2)	Animals protected on <i>Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &amp;c.) Regulations 1994</i>
HAP	Habitat Action Plan	A plan that identifies threats to a priority habitat and sets out targets and actions to enhance or maintain that habitat.
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (also known as The World Conservation Union)	A worldwide partnership and conservation network to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	A plan that identifies threats to locally important species and habitats, and sets out targets and actions in Species Action Plans and Habitat Action Plans to enhance or maintain biodiversity at the county or regional level.
LHAP	Local Habitat Action Plan	A plan that identifies threats to a locally important priority habitat and sets out targets and actions to enhance or maintain that habitat.
LSAP	Local Species Action Plan	A plan that identifies threats to locally important species, and sets out targets and actions to prevent losing that species from the local area.



Code	Full Title	Explanation
Notable	Scarce and threatened invertebrates	Invertebrate species which are estimated to occur within the range of 16 to 100 10km squares but subdivision into Notable A and Notable B categories is not possible as there is insufficient information available).
Notable:A	Scarce and threatened invertebrates	Taxa which do not fall within Red Data Book 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.
Notable: B	Scarce and threatened invertebrates	Taxa which do not fall within Red Data Book 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.
NN	Nationally Notable	Designation for invertebrate taxa that are thought to be notably important in the UK.
NR	Nationally Rare	Species in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain.
NS	National Scarce	Species in 16-100 hectads in Great Britain.
Red	Red List	Red listed species have a population status in the UK with high conservation concern.
RDB	Red Data Book Species	Species identified in one of the UK Red Data books.
RDB(CR)	Critically Endangered	An IUCN Red List designation for species at an extremely high risk of extinction.
RDB(EN)	Endangered	An IUCN Red List designation for species at a very high risk of extinction.
RDB(VU)	Vulnerable	An IUCN Red List designation for species at high risk of extinction.
SAP	Species Action Plan	A plan that identifies threats to significantly important species, and sets out targets and actions to prevent losing that species to extinction.
UKBAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan	A plan that identifies threats to locally important species and habitats, and sets out targets and actions in Species Action Plans and Habitat Action Plans to enhance or maintain biodiversity in the UK.
UKSAP	UK Species Action Plan	A plan that identifies threats to nationally important species, and sets out targets and actions to prevent the decline or extinction of the species in the UK.
WCA	<i>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended)	Containing 4 Parts and 17 Schedules, the Act covers protection of wildlife (birds, and some animals and plants), the countryside, National Parks, and the designation of protected areas,

Code	Full Title	Explanation
		and public rights of way. All wild plants in Britain are protected from intentional uprooting by an unauthorized person, but land owners, land occupiers, persons authorized by either of these or persons authorized in writing by the Local Authority for the area are exempt. Protection for some species may be limited to certain Sections of the Act (e.g. S13(2)).
WCA1	Schedule 1 of <i>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended)	<p>This Schedule lists birds protected by special penalties at all times, but virtually all wild birds have some protection in law.</p> <p>Acts which are prohibited for all wild birds (except derogated 'pest' species) include intentional killing, injuring or taking; taking, damaging or destroying nests in use or being built; taking or destroying eggs; possessing or having control of (with certain exceptions but including live for dead birds, parts or derivative); setting or permitting certain traps, weapons, decoys or poisons. Selling, offering or exposing for sale, possessing or transporting for sale any live wild bird, egg or part of an egg or advertising any of these for sale, or dead wild bird including parts or derivatives are also prohibited. Many birds must be formally registered and ringed if kept in captivity.</p> <p>Schedule I WCA birds are additionally protected from intentional or reckless disturbance while building a nest, or when such a bird is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young, or intentional or reckless disturbance of dependent young.</p>
WCA5	Schedule 5 of <i>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended)	Schedule 5 animals are protected from intentional killing, injuring or taking; possessing (including parts or derivatives); intentional or reckless damage, destruction or obstruction of any structure or place used for shelter or protection; selling, offering or exposing for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (alive or dead, including parts or derivatives). Protection of some species is limited to certain Sections of the Act (e.g. S9(1), S9(4a), S9(4b), S9(5)).
WCA5.9.1	Section 9 (1) under Schedule 5 of <i>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended)	Protection limited to intentional killing, injury or taking.
WCA5.9.4a	Section 9 (4a) under Schedule 5 of <i>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended)	Protection limited to damaging, destroying, or obstructing access to, any structure or place used by the animal for shelter or protection.

Code	Full Title	Explanation
WCA5.9.5	Section 9 (5) under Schedule 5 of <i>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended)	Protection limited to selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for purpose of sale, or advertising for sale, any live or dead animal, or any part of, or anything derived from, such animal.  Note that all cetaceans (whales and dolphins) and the Basking Shark ( <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> ) are now protected from intentional or reckless disturbance.
WCA8	Schedule 8 of <i>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended)	Plants and fungi protected from intentional picking, uprooting, destroying, trading (including parts or derivatives), <i>etc.</i>