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# **MEMO**

To: Ingrid Berry Organisation Sefton Council

Your Ref: Sefton Local Plan From

Sophie Leadsom File Ref: 11/3/10

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Plan\Evidence
Base\2015\_10\_23\_Comments on
Ecological Issues on 3 sites.docx Date: 23 October 2015

# Detailed ecological comments on three sites not brought forward in the Sefton Local Plan either partly or wholly because of ecological issues

#### <u>Summary</u>

- I provide further clarification of the ecological issues of AS12, AS15 and AS23 sites to ensure the interpretation of ecological constraints, included in the Local Plan site selection process, is supported by the evidence base.
- 2. The ecological issues with AS12 remain significant. The ecological issues associated with AS15 and AS23 are considered moderate, rather than significant as appropriate mitigation can potentially be provided.

### AS12 Land West of Maghull

- This parcel of land was assessed in accordance with our standard method for 3. assessing all sites identified in the Local Plan.
- 4. The site supports wintering birds and is also adjacent to a LWS which supports large numbers of wintering birds. These birds are qualifying features of the European protected sites.
- 5. Development of the site may displace wintering birds directly by land take and indirectly by increasing the number of people using the footpaths that lead from the site to, and throughout, the LWS.
- 6. Development of the site may also significantly increase disturbance at the nearby Lunt Meadows nature reserve by increasing the number of people using the footpaths that lead from the site directly to the nature reserve. Lunt Meadows also supports qualifying bird species and other, protected species.

7. An HRA would be required to assess the risk of impact of development on qualifying features. In the absence of site specific evidence to conduct an HRA, a precautionary approach is required under the Habitats Regulations. This site is considered to have significant ecological constraints associated with its possible development.

#### AS15 Land South of the Crescent.

- 8. This parcel of land was assessed using our standard methods. The ecological matters relating to the development of this site include Priority Species (water vole, breeding birds), Priority Habitat (neutral grassland), European protected species (otter) and the loss of a Local Wildlife Site. Development of the site must maintain ecological connectivity along the water course for the protected species and provide mitigation and/or compensation for the loss of the Local Wildlife Site and the features for which it was designated.
- 9. This parcel of land is considered have **moderate ecological constraints** associated with its possible development.

## AS23 Land East of Aintree Racecourse, Wango Lane, Aintree

- 10. MEAS was not consulted on this site as this parcel of land was eliminated at Stage Two of the Greenbelt Study.
- 11. I have assessed the site with regards to ecological considerations. The site is a Local Wildlife Site designated for its mosaic of grassland, scrub and woodland habitat. Mitigation and/or compensation would be required for the loss of the Local Wildlife Site. This could be achieved, in part, by retaining part of the LWS and securing its future ecological management. It is likely European protected species (bats) are present along with Priority breeding bird species. Loss of habitat for these species would also require mitigation. This parcel of land is considered to have moderate ecological constraints associated with its development.

I would be pleased to discuss these issues further and to provide additional information in respect of any of the matters raised.

Sophie Leadsom Ecologist

Site ID	Site Address	Site Area (ha)	Ecology Constraint Grade	Ecology description
SR4.01	Bartons Close,	1	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles adjacent to
	Southport			Three Pools Waterway.
SR4.02	Land at	8.97	Moderate Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife
	Bankfield Lane,			Site and mitigation / compensatory
	Churchtown			measures would be required. Potential
,				for water voles on part of the site.
SR4.03	Land at Moss	19.06	Minor Moderate	Potential for water voles adjacent to
	Lane,		Constraint	Three Pools Waterway and other
	Churchtown			<u>Priority species, mitigation for habitat</u>
				loss required.
SR4.04	Land at	22.2	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles adjacent to
	Crowland Street			Three Pools Waterway.
SR4.05	Land adjacent to	9	Moderate Constraint	Potential for water voles along the
	Dobbie's Garden			drain on the site's eastern boundary.
	Centre,			Invasive species recorded on the site.
	Bentham's Way, Southport			
SR4.06	Former Ainsdale	9.2	Moderate Constraint	Site is adjacent to internationally
	Hope School,			important nature sites. <u>Habitat buffer</u>
	Ainsdale			zone between development and
				protected sites required.
SR4.07	St John Stone RC	1.3	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles adjacent to
	Primary			Sandy Brook Drain.
SR4.08	Meadows ATC,	2	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles adjacent to
	Sandbrook Lane, Ainsdale			Sandy Brook Drain.
SR4.09	Land south of	20.9	Moderate Minor	Site is adjacent to, and contains
	the Coastal		Constraint	Priority Habitat and is adjacent to
	Road, Ainsdale			internationally important nature sites.
SR4.10	Land south of	5.2	Minor Constraint	Some potential for protected species
	Moor Lane,			on part of the site.
	Ainsdale			
SR4.11	Land north of	6.4	Moderate Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife
	Brackenway,			Site. Mitigation / compensatory
	Formby			measures would be required. There is
				scope for-significant on-site mitigation
				to address this issue.
SR4.12	Holy Trinity CE	0.9	No Minor Constraint	No known ecological constraints Site
	School			provides bat and breeding bird habitat
SR4.13	Former	1.6	Minor Moderate	A significant part of the site is wooded
	Professional		Constraint	- potential for red squirrels and bats,
	Development			Mitigation for woodland would be
	Centre, Park			<u>required</u>
	Road, Formby			
SR4.14	Land at	14.2	No Minor Constraint	No known ecological constraints Site
	Liverpool Road,			provides habitat for Priority breeding
	Formby			bird species, water vole and otter
				require consideration

SR4.15	Land at Altcar	2.53	No Minor Constraint	No known ecological constraints Site
31(4.13	Lane, Formby	2.55	No <u>Willior</u> Constraint	provides habitat for winter birds,
	Lane, Formby			Priority breeding birds, water vole and
				otter
CD4.1C	Land at	4.0	Min on Constraint	
SR4.16		4.6	Minor Constraint	Adjacent to a wildlife corridor along
	Andrew's Lane,			the railway. Potential for protected
	Formby			species in drainage ditches. Invasive
,				species recorded on the site.
SR4.17	Land at Elmcroft	1.2	Minor Constraint	Site is partially wooded, ditches
	Lane, Hightown			provide habitat for water vole-
SR4.18	Land at Sandy	0.7	No Minor Constraint	No known ecological constraints site
	Lane, Hightown			provides habitat for water vole, high
				diversity of plants and invertebrates
SR4.19	Land at Hall	1.1	Minor Constraint	Site is adjacent to internationally
	Road West,			important nature sites.
	Crosby			
SR4.20	Land at	3.9	Minor Constraint	Currently a habitat for farmland birds.
	Southport Old			However once the new road is
	Road, Thornton			constructed it will enclose the land and
	,			diminish its habitat value.
SR4.21	Land West of	6.9	Minor Constraint	Currently a habitat for farmland birds.
JIV II.ZI	Holgate	0.5	Willion Constraint	However once Broom's Cross Road is
	Holgate			constructed it will enclose the land and
				diminish its habitat value.
SR4.22	Land East of	1.5	Minor Constraint	
304.22		1.5	Williof Constraint	Currently a habitat for farmland birds.  However once Broom's Cross Road is
	Holgate			
				constructed it will enclose the land and
25.4.22				diminish its habitat value.
SR4.23	Land at Lydiate	9	Minor Constraint	Currently a habitat for farmland birds.
	Lane, Thornton			However once Broom's Cross Road is
				constructed it will enclose the land and
				diminish its habitat value. Adjacent to
,				ponds to the north.
SR4.24	Tanhouse Farm,	1.8	No Constraint Minor	No known ecological constraints
	Runnell's Lane,		<u>constraint</u>	Mature trees and potential for bat
	Thornton			roosts
SR4.25	Land south of	5.3	Minor Constraint	Invasive species recorded on this site,
	Runnell's Lane,			breeding birds.
'	Thornton			
SR4.26	Former Prison	13.6	Minor oderate	Site is partially wooded and contains
'	Site, Park Lane,		Constraint	ponds. Bat roosts present on the site.
	Maghull			
SR4.27	Land East of	86	Minor oderate	Parts of the site contains Whinny
] 5,,4,2,	Maghull		Constraint	Brook, hedgerows and mature trees.
	Magnan		Constraint	Potential habitat for wintering birds.
				Invasive species recorded on this site.
SR4.28	Land east of	6	NoMinor Constraint	No known ecological constraintsSite
J1\4.20			THO IVIIIIOI CONSTITUINE	
	Waddicar Lane,			provides habitat for bats, breeding and
CD 4 3 3	Melling		NATION CONTRACTOR	wintering birds, water vole
SR4.29	Wadacre Farm,	5.5	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles in drainage
	Melling			ditches along the boundary of the site,

				site also provides habitat for bats and
				breeding and wintering birds.
SR4.30	Land at Wango	1.8	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles on part of the
	Lane, Aintree			site linked to River Alt
SR4.31	Aintree Curve	3.1	Moderate Constraint	Site is adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site
	Site, Ridgewood			and has some grassland habitat value.
	Way, Netherton			Invasive species present on the site.
SR4.32	Z Block Sites,	3.5	No Constraint	No known ecological constraints
	Buckley Hill			
	Lane, Netherton			
SR4.33	Former St	1.9	No Constraint	No known ecological constraints
	Raymonds			
	school,			
	Netherton			
SR4.34	Land at Pendle	1.4	Minor Constraint	Adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site
	Drive, Netherton			
SR4.35	Former Bootle	1.7	No Constraint	No known ecological constraints
	High School,			
	Netherton			
SR4.36	Former Daleacre	1	No-Minor Constraint	No known ecological constraints
	School,			Boundary trees should be retained,
	Netherton			water vole likely present on adjacent
				<u>canal</u>
SR4.37	Land at Sterrix	1.6	Minor Constraint	Potential for bat roosts within the
	Lane, Netherton			existing buildings, mature trees
				provide habitat for breeding birds
SR4.38	Our Lady Queen	1.2	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles adjacent to
	of Peace School			the Leeds-Liverpool Canal.
SR4.39	Former Rawson	1	No Constraint Minor	No known ecological constraints
	Road Primary		constraint	mature trees provide habitat for
	School, Seaforth			breeding birds and bats
SR4.40	Former St	6.6	Minor Constraint	Part of site used as a gull roost, trees
	Wilfrid's School,			provide potential habitat for bats and
	Bootle			breeding birds
SR4.41	Klondyke Phases	4.2	Minor Constraint	Some existing buildings have bat roost
	2 and 3			potential
SR4.42	Former St Joan	1.3	NoMinor -Constraint	No known ecological
	of Arc School,			<del>constraints</del> Potential habitat for bats
	Rimrose Road,			and breeding birds
	Bootle			
SR4.43	Former St	1.6	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles adjacent to
	Mary's School,			Leeds-Liverpool Canal.
	Bank Road			·
SR4.44	Land at	0.6	No-Minor Constraint	No known ecological constraints
	Woodvale			Adjacent to wintering habitat for
	Sidings, Moor			farmland birds. Some breeding bird
	Lane, Ainsdale			habitat on site and red squirrel
SR4.45	Land at Range	10.8	Moderate Constraint	Site is adjacent to internationally
	Farm, Formby			important nature sites. Potential
	,			habitats also located on site.
				habitats also located on site.

SR4.46	Powerhouse site, Phase 2, Formby	0.6	Minor Constraint	The site has some grassland habitat value
SR4.47	Land north of Lambshear Lane, Lydiate	33	Minor Constraint	Parts of the site contains mature trees, hedgerows, ponds, and drains, with the potential to accommodate protected species.
SR4.48	Land north of Kenyon's Lane, Lydiate	9.7	No-Minor Constraint	No known ecological constraints   habitat for farmland birds, bats, invasive species and barn owl
SR4.49	Land south of Melling Lane, Maghull	3.32	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles on land adjacent to the canal
AS01	Land at Bankfield Lane, Churchtown (extension to proposed Local Plan allocation SR4.2)	15.5	Moderate Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and mitigation / compensatory measures would be required. Potential for water voles on part of the site. There is scope for significant mitigation to address this issue, both onsite and on adjacent land in the same ownership.
AS02	Land West of Lynton Road, Birkdale	1.5	M <u>inor oderate</u> Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and mitigation / compensatory measures would be required. The railway acts as a wildlife corridor. There is scope for on-site mitigation to address this issue.
AS03	Wood Hey, Southport Old Road, Formby	0.2	Minor Constraint	Potential for bat roosts and amphibiants on site.
AS04	Formby House Farm, Southport Old Road, Formby	0.2	Minor Constraint	Potential for bat roosts on site
AS05	West Lane, Formby	1.9	Minor Constraint	Site is in proximity to internationally important nature sites, and provides and contains a large number of protected trees habitat for -breeding birds, bats and red squirrel
AS06	Land north of Brackenway (extension to proposed Local Plan allocation SR4.11)	13.7	Moderate Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site. Mitigation / compensatory measures would be required. There is scope for significant on-site mitigation to address this issue.
AS08	Land South of Altcar Road, Formby	18	Minor Moderate Constraint	Adjacent to Downholland Brook with potential for water voles on part of the site. Adjacent to site known to support large numbers of wintering birds and habitat for breeding farmland birds
AS10	Land at Edge	12.4	Minor Constraint	Invasive species present on adjacent

	Lane, Thornton			land Boundary trees provide habitat
	Lanc, mornion			for bats and breeding birds
AS12	Land west of Maghull, between Bells Lane and South Meade	51.4	Significant Constraint	In proximity to a Biological Heritage Site in West Lancashire, with direct footpath access (leading to increased disturbance) to-A feeding grounds for Pink Footed Goose which is a European protected site designation feature under the Habitats Regulations 2010. Also direct footpath access (leading to increased disturbance) to the nearby Lunt Meadows nature reserve which also accommodates winter birds. Invasive species recorded on this site.
AS13	Cheshire Lines Health Club, Sefton Lane, Maghull	1.5	Minor Constraint	Adjacent ditches may provide a habitat for water voles
AS14	Land east of Northway (the A59), and north of Kenyons Lane, Lydiate	36.4	M <u>oderate</u> inor Constraint	Potential for water voles, winter birds and Priority breeding bird species and other protected species on part of the site.
AS15	Land south of the Crescent Maghull	6.2	Significant Moderate Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and mitigation / compensatory measures would be required. This site is one of the largest neutral grassland habitats remaining in Sefton, potential habitat for otter and water vole-
AS16	Land adjacent to Maghull Station, Melling Lane, Maghull	1.3	Moderate Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site. Mitigation / compensatory measures would be required. There is scope for significant on-site mitigation to address this issue.
AS17	Land at Switch Island north of M57 between Aintree, Maghull and Melling	69	Moderate Constraint	Adjacent to the River Alt and contains hedgerows. Water Voles present along River Alt, and Section 41 (NERC) priority bird species recorded on site. Invasive species present on part of the site.
AS18	Land north of Oriel Drive, Aintree	19.3	Minor Constraint	Wet woodland Site provides habitat for water vole and breeding birds
AS19	Land west of Spencer's Lane, Aintree	8.3	Minor Constraint	Adjacent to the River Alt and contains hedgerows. Water Voles present along River Alt. Invasive species recorded on site. Habitat for breeding birds, water vole, otter and kingfisher
AS20	Land South of Spencers Lane, Melling	0.6	No Constraint	No known ecological constraints

AS21	Land east of Spencer's Lane, Aintree	22.7	Minor Constraint	Adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site, Canal, and River Alt. Contains some ecological interest. Site provides habitat for
	Aiitiee			Priority breeding birds species
AS22	Mill Farm, east of Bulls Bridge Lane and north of Taunton Drive, Aintree	4.8	Minor Constraint	Water Voles present along River Alt. Invasive species recorded on site
AS23	Land East of Aintree Racecourse, Wango Lane, Aintree	7.9	Significant Moderate Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and mitigation / compensatory measures would be required. Adjacent to the Leeds-Liverpool canal.
AS24	Land adjacent to Ashworth Hospital, between School Lane, M58, and Old Prescot Close, Maghull	18.5	Minor Constraint	Mature trees on site, hedgerows and potential for water vole. Some ecological interest including known bat roosts.
AS25	Land at The Stables, Chapel Lane, Netherton	2.6	No Minor Constraint	Hedgerows and trees provide habitat for foraging bats and breeding birds No known ecological constraints
AS27	Land at Lydiate Lane, Thornton, (extension to proposed Local Plan allocation SR4.23)	17.8	Minor Constraint	Currently a habitat for farmland birds. However once Broom's Cross Road is constructed it will enclose the land and diminish its habitat value. Adjacent to ponds to the north.
SR5.2A	Southport Business Park and its Extension	19.2	Minor Constraint	Site has some grassland habitat value
SR5.2B	Three sites along the Dunnings Bridge Road Corridor, Netherton (Senate Business Park, Atlantic Business Park, and the Former Peerless Refinery Site)	26.8	Minor Constraint	Invasive species present on some sites. Sites may provide habitat for bats and breeding birds
S008	Kew Park and Ride, Southport	3.6	Minor Constraint	Invasive species present on part of the site, potential for water vole
S009	Waste Transfer Station and adjacent land, Foul Lane,	9.5	Moderate Minor Constraint	Invasive species present on part of the site. Adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site. Potential for water voles adjacent to Boundary Brook and Fine Jane's Brook.

	Southport			A pond is within the site.
S044	Land north of Formby Ind Estate and south of Moss Side	24.1	Significant Moderate Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and mitigation / compensatory measures would be required. Water voles are present on the site, which is crossed by several drainage ditches.
S056	Alt Road, Hightown	9.9	Minor Constraint	Potential for wintering birds on part of the site, also water vole and breeding farmland birds
S058	Land to the North East of Hightown	16.1	Moderate Constraint	Potential for wintering birds, water voles, and Priority breeding bird species other protected species on the site
S068	Land South East of Hightown	11.9	M <u>inor</u> oderate Constraint	Potential for wintering birds, water voles, and other protected species on part of the site. Royal Fern is present on part of the site.
S077, S078	Land at Virgins Lane, Crosby	13	M <u>inor oderate</u> Constraint	Potential for wintering birds and other protected species on the site.  Hedgerows and mature trees would require protection
S112e	Land at Turnbridge Road, Maghull	1.6	M <u>oderate</u> inor Constraint	Potential for water voles along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, Maghull Brook, and drainage ditches. A significant proportion of the site is covered by mature hedgerows
S125	Small Holdings Estate, Millbank Lane, Maghull	25.5	Minor Constraint	Site contains a number of hedgerows, ponds, and mature trees. Habitat for water vole and Priority breeding bird species
S152	Land North of Spencers Lane, Melling	7.4	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and priority breeding bird species.
S158	Land at Bank Lane, Kirkby	11.3	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles along the Simonswood Brook.
SR5.2D	Land to the North of Formby Industrial Estate	13.8	Moderate Constraint	Site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and mitigation / compensatory measures would be required. Water voles known to be on part of the site, however there is scope for on-site mitigation to address this issue.
SR5A.1	Switch Car Site, Wakefield Road, Netherton	4.7	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and breeding birds on the site-
SR5A.6	Linacre Bridge, Linacre Lane, Bootle	1	Minor Constraint	Potential for water voles along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and breeding birds on the site.
SR5A.7	Former Lanstar Site, Hawthorne Road, Bootle	1	Minor Constraint	Potential for water vole in the canal
SR5A.8	Land at Farriers	0.5	Minor Constraint	Invasive species present on part of the

	Way, Netherton			site
TS1	Land at the corner of Linacre Lane/Hawthorne Rd, Bootle	0.8	NoMinor Constraint	No known ecological constraintsMature trees provide habitat for breeding birds and bats, water vole may be present
TS2	Land at New Causeway, Formby	3.2	M <u>oderate inor</u> Constraint	Adjacent to River Alt. Potential for water vole and otters. Adjacent to area known to support large numbers of wintering birds, Priority breeding bird species likely
TS3	Land at Plex Moss Lane, Ainsdale	1	No Minor Constraint	Site provides potential habitat for breeding birds and batsNo known ecological constraints
TS4	Land at Broad Lane, Formby	0.4	No Constraint	No known ecological constraints
TS21	Land at Tattersall Road	0.1	No Constraint	No known ecological constraints
TS35	Land at Broad Lane, south of Red Rose Traveller Park	0.2	Minor No Constraint	Potential habitat for breeding bird and roosting bats, red squirrel No known ecological constraints
TS38	Pinfold Cottage Field, Northern Perimeter Rd, Netherton	0	No Minor Constraint	No known ecological constraintsParts of the site are wooded, habitat for breeding birds
TS39	Ainsdale Promenade	0.2	Moderate Constraint	Site is adjacent to internationally important nature sites and European protected species.
TS40	Meadow Lane Green, Ainsdale	0.2	Minor No Constraint	Potential for water vole in the brookNo known ecological constraints
TS45	Mariners Road (grassed area) Blundellsands	1.1	Severe Moderate Constraint	Site is within <u>LWS and close to</u> an internationally important nature site.  Mitigation, if required may be difficult to achieve due to nature of habitat
AS28	Phillip's Site, Balmoral Drive	30.49	Minor Constraint	Some existing buildings have <u>barn owl</u> <del>bat roost p</del> otential
AS29	Former Peoples Garage site, Hawthorne Road / Linacre Lane	5.43	No Constraint	No known ecological constraints