

The site is in a sustainable location in the very heart of Burscough Village and accessible by walking, cycling and use of public transport with several bus stops and two railway stations within acceptable walking distances with frequent and regular services to local and more distant destinations such as Liverpool, Preston, Ormskirk and Manchester. The public transport links are set to improve further as defined in the West Lancashire Local Plan (WLLP) 2012-2027:

“Public transport links through both rail and bus should be enhanced to improve the accessibility of key centres and their links to the centres of City Regions - Liverpool, Manchester and Preston”.

Due to its accessibility by all modes of travel and ease of access to local amenities such as supermarkets, Post Office, bars and restaurants, personal vehicle ownership is not necessarily required and as per the WLLP, residential developments promoting car-free living should be encouraged especially given the heavily congested nature of the area due to large scale developments of recent years. Car-free residential developments are a major element of what constitutes sustainable development, as defined by the WLLP.

Below is an extract from the West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027 which is of relevance:

Chapter 2 Spatial Portrait

“2.34 Burscough is located on the A59 and has been known to experience congestion at peak times. Burscough has two railway stations: Burscough Junction providing a link between Preston and Ormskirk, and Burscough Bridge with links to Southport and Manchester. There are also a number of bus routes, with services to Tarleton, Ormskirk, Rufford, Preston and Southport. Close to Burscough is the internationally important Martin Mere Wildfowl and Wetland Trust reserve.”