



Ecological Impact Assessment

Rosemount Avenue, Preesall

Ref: P.1946.24

Date: February 2024

(See revision dates below)

Rev	Date	Details
A	21 st August 2023	Updates following receiving the drainage plans
B	30 th November 2023	Updates following updated layout
C	30 th January 2024	Updates to amend applicant details and update the report following the site visit

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ascerta has been instructed by **Breck Homes Limited** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the Rosemount Avenue, Presall (hereafter referred to as **the site**).

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of 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.

The site comprises a poor semi-improved field encroached with dense scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. Sections of species poor hedgerow border the northern and southern site boundaries and scattered trees are present throughout. Dry ditches lie adjacent to the western, eastern and southern site boundaries.

During the updated site visit in January 2024, the semi-improved grassland field was grazed by ponies and sheep and the dry ditch that lines the western, eastern and southern site boundaries was holding water.

Assessed against the '*Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland*' 2nd edition (2018), the sites habitats range in ecological value from negligible to within the zone of influence.

The site provides habitat for nesting birds, badger, hedgehog, amphibians and bats. The majority of habitats assessed are likely to be lost to the proposals. However, as 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.

- If works have not begun by January 2025, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site and an updated preliminary bat roost assessment of trees that will be lost to the proposals to determine the suitability of any features that may be present to support a bat roost and to inform further recommendations if required;
- Trees T1, T2, T4 and trees within groups G2 and G6 (see drawing P.1946.24.01 *Tree Survey*, Appendix 1) assessed to provide **low** bat roost potential will require soft felling;
- Sensitive lighting to be used to meet the Bat Conservation Trust lighting guidance so not to cause a detrimental effect to light sensitive species;
- Production and implantation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to protect statutory sites within 250m of the site;
- Implementation of a badger and hedgehog RAMS (section 5.2) to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works;
- Implementation of an amphibian RAMS (section 5.2) to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works;

- Precautionary check for invasive prior to works commencing;
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting that includes native, species rich hedgerows, trees and areas of wildflowers plus provision of integrated bat and bird features within newly constructed buildings;
- 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; and
- Vegetation clearance or pruning should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1st March to 31st August Inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds. Or a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing.

1.0 Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by **Breck Homes Limited** to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal at the site. The site OS grid reference is SD 3629 4860 and the What3Words reference is galleries.certainly.curve. The extent of the site is displayed in photograph 1.1 below.



Photograph 1.1: Extent of the site.

Our client seeks planning consent to redevelop the site with the construction of residential dwellings, associated access road and area of open space.

The site was visited on 13th July 2023 by Lizzie Atkinson, when a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 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).

The site comprises a poor semi-improved field encroached with dense scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. Sections of species poor hedgerow border the northern and southern site boundaries and scattered trees are present throughout. Dry ditches lie adjacent to the western, eastern and southern site boundaries.

During the updated site visit in January 2024, the semi-improved grassland field was grazed by ponies and sheep and the dry ditch that lines the western, eastern and southern site boundaries was holding water.

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.

2.0 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 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.

3.0 Survey Methods

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal involved the collection and review of data from a desk study and field survey, along with assessment of the value of the habitats following CIEEM guidelines.

3.1 Desk Study

A review of the designated sites and habitats within 2km of the site has been undertaken in July 2023 and January 2024 using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) and the Natural England websites.

A review of UK and Local priority species and habitats known to occur within 2km of the site has been undertaken in July using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website, Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) and local records from Lancashire Environment Record Networks (LERN) (Appendix 5).

3.2 Field Survey

A walkover survey of the site was conducted on 13th July 2023 and 30th January 2024 by Lizzie Atkinson. 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, otter, red squirrel and water vole);
- Birds (including species potentially associated with 'European Sites');
- Amphibians and reptiles;
- Invertebrates;
- Hedgerows and boundaries;
- Invasive plant species; and
- Plant communities and trees.

3.3 Bat Survey Methods

For the survey in July 2023, methods followed the guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines – 3rd Edition* (2016). Habitats, buildings and trees were assessed for suitability for use by bats and categorised independently using table 4.1 page 35 within the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Collins, 2016).

In January 2024, survey methods followed the guidelines set out by the Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition* (2023). 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, 2023).

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal 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 assigned a suitability of **moderate** or above may require further inspection if they are to be lost to the development.

Any trees on-site are categorised as per Table 3.1 (below). Buildings assigned a suitability of **Low** or above may require further inspection if they are to be lost to the development.

Table 3.1: 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 4.1 page 44 of the Bat Conservation Trust Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines – 4th Edition (2023).

Potential suitability	Description	
	Roosting Habitats in structures	Potential flight-paths and foraging habitats
None	<i>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).</i>	<i>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).</i>
Negligible^a	<i>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.</i>	<i>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.</i>
Low	<i>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 ^b 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 ^c).</i>	<i>Habitat 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 habitat. 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.</i>
Moderate	<i>A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions^b 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).</i>	<i>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. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.</i>
High	<i>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 ^b and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.</i>	<i>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. 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 watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.</i>

^a 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).

^b For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

^c 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; and
- 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 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 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric as far as possible at this stage.

3.6 Limitations

The initial site visit was undertaken in mid-July. This is within the optimal time of year for phase 1 habitat surveys and 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 inspect trees within group G2 (drawing P.1946.24.01 *Tree Survey*, Appendix 1) was restricted due to dense bramble. Binoculars were used to aid inspection for potential roost features. This access restriction has been considered within the report conclusions.

The pond (TN2) located south of the site could not be inspected due to land ownership. This access restriction has been 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.

4.0 Survey Results

4.1 Desk Study

Statutory sites

The following statutory sites were identified within the vicinity of the proposals (with approximate distance and direction from the site):

- Morecombe Bay Ramsar/ Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/Special Protection Area (SPA), 250m north;
- Wyre Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) 250m north; and
- Lune Estuary SSSI, 250m north

Non-statutory sites

The following non-statutory sites were identified within the vicinity of the proposals (with distance and direction from the site):

- ICI Salt Pools Biological Heritage Site (BHS), 2km south;
- Clods Carr Lane Fields BHS, 1.9km south-west;
- Pilling Moss – Head Dyke, 960m east (at closest point); and
- Hackensall Brows BHS, 1.8km west.

The full designations for each site are listed within Appendix 5.

The site lies within a Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone.

Priority Habitats

Coastal

One area of Coastal Saltmarsh was returned and located 1.6km north-east. One area of Mudflats was located 1.6km west.

Grassland

Numerous areas of Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh were returned within 2km of the site with the closest area 400m south-east. Four areas of Good Quality Semi-Improved Grassland were returned with the closest area 1.2km south. Two Reedbeds were returned within the closest area located 1.4km south.

Wetland

Four areas of Lowland Fens were returned within 2km with the closest area located 1.1km south.

Woodland

Ten areas of Deciduous Woodland were returned within 2km of the site with the closest area located 620m south-west.

The site lies within:

- FC/BTO Wader Zone
- Pink-footed Goose Main Roost Area
- Pink-footed Goose Major Feeding Area
- Whooper Swan Sensitive Waterbird Area (SWA)

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

- Corn bunting
- Lapwing

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

- Corn bunting
- Grey partridge
- Lapwing
- Red shank
- Tree sparrow

Priority Species

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

Birds

Two hundred and seventy-two records were returned for bird species within 2km of the site. Species returned include lapwing, pink-footed goose, tree sparrow, song thrush and house martin. All species recorded within 2km are displayed within Appendix 5. Table 4.1 below shows a summary of the closest and most recent bird records and related distance to the site.

Table 4.1. Summary of the closest and most recent bird species records and related distance to site.

Bird Species	Distance of record to site (approx.)	Record date
Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Twite (<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Pied Wagtail (<i>Montacilla alba</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>)	2km west	02/01/2020
Little Egret (<i>Egretta garzaetta</i>)	250m north	15/10/2015
Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	250m north	15/10/2015

Bats

South Lancashire Bat Group (SLBG) returned fifteen records for bats within 2km of the site. LERN returned twenty-eight records for bats within the search area. Bat species include common pipistrelle, pipistrelle bat species and unknown bat species. Below is a summary of the most recent and closest bat records and related distance to the site (see Table 4.2). All species recorded within 2km are displayed within Appendix 5.

Table 4.2. Summary of closest and most recent bat records, record type and related distance to site.

Bat Species	Record type	Distance of record to site (approx.)	Record date
Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> sp.)	Roost	900m south-west	2015
Unknown	Field Record	100m west	2001
Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> sp.)	Roost	50m south	2000

Amphibians

Twenty-seven records for amphibians were returned within 2km of the site. Species present include common toad, common frog and great crested newt. All species recorded within 2km are displayed within Appendix 5. Below (Table 4.3) is a summary of the closest and most recent amphibian records and related distance to the site.

Table 4.3. Summary of most recent and closest amphibian records to and related distance to site.

Notable and Protected Species	Distance of record to site (approx.)	Record date
Common Toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>)	1.6km south	28/02/2012
Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	1.5km south-west	2002
Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	1.6km west	17/05/2017
Common Frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>)	1.6km south	2011

Terrestrial mammals

Twenty-four records for Terrestrial mammals were returned within 2km of the site. Species present include hedgehog, brown hare and water vole. All species recorded within 2km are displayed within Appendix 5. Below (Table 4.4) is a summary of Summary of most notable and/or protected species and related distance to site.

Table 4.4. Summary of most notable mammal species and related distance to site.

Notable and Protected Species	Distance of record to site (approx.)	Record date
European Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	180m east	2019
European Water Vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>)	1.6km south-east	2010

There were no European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) applications within 2km of the site since 2017 identified using Magic Maps.

4.2 Habitat Survey

A habitat survey was conducted on 13th July 2023 and 30th January 2024 by Lizzie Atkinson MSc CIEEM 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 4.5). 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.1946.24.E01 *Phase One Habitat Survey*, Appendix 1 and photographs within Appendix 3. The Target Notes (TN) and lists of species recorded during survey are presented in Appendix 2.

Weather conditions in July 2023 during the survey were warm (18°C), dry and overcast (6/8 cloud cover) with a F1 (Beaufort Scale) light air, therefore appropriate for this type of survey.

Weather conditions in January 2024 during the survey were cold (6°C), dry and sunny (2/8 cloud cover) with a F2 (Beaufort Scale) light breeze, therefore appropriate for this type of survey.

The site lies within Knott End-on-sea and is bordered by Pilling Lane to the north, agricultural fields to the east and residential dwellings to the west and south. The immediate surrounding land use is predominately residential dwellings with retail outlets, agricultural land is present within the wider area. Morecambe Bay Ramsar, Wyre Estuary SSSI lies approximately 250m north of the site.

The site comprises a poor semi-improved field encroached with dense scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. Sections of species poor hedgerow border the northern and southern site boundaries and scattered trees are present throughout. Dry ditches lie adjacent to the western, eastern and southern site boundaries.

During the updated site visit in January 2024, the semi-improved grassland field was grazed by ponies and sheep and the dry ditch that lines the western, eastern and southern site boundaries was holding water.

Table 4.5. Habitats present on site including habitat alphanumeric code references from JNCC (2010).

Habitat Description and JNCC Codes	Site Description
<i>Dense/continuous scrub (A2.1)</i>	Large areas of dense scrub has encroached the semi-improved grassland field. Species include predominately bramble with occasional strands of hawthorn and salix species. This habitat is displayed in photograph 1 within Appendix 3.
<i>Poor semi-improved grassland (B6)</i>	<p>The site comprises a poor semi-improved grassland field which has formerly used to keep horses and sheep. The sward height is approximately 3cm in height with small areas of bare ground present. Species present include Yorkshire fog, poa sp., bent sp., rush sp., and tall ruderal species. This habitat is displayed in photograph 2 within Appendix 3.</p> <p>In January 2024, the semi-improved grassland field was grazed by sheep and horses.</p>
<i>Scattered trees (A3.1)</i>	Scattered trees line the site boundaries and are present throughout the field, with felled trees also noted. Species present include hawthorn, white willow, alder, goat willow and sycamore. This habitat is displayed in photographs 3-9 within Appendix 3.
<i>Species Poor Hedge (J2.1.2)</i>	Species poor hedgerows partially line the northern and southern site boundaries. Species present include hawthorn, Scots pine and privet with tall ruderal vegetations within the margins. The hedgerows are partially maintained through pruning. This habitat is displayed in photographs 10-12 within Appendix 3.
<i>Tall ruderal vegetation (C3.1)</i>	Tall ruderal vegetation has encroached the poor semi-improved grassland field throughout and species present include creeping thistle, common nettle, bindweed and willowherb. This habitat is displayed in photographs 13-14 within Appendix 3.
<i>Wet ditch (J2.6)</i>	<p>A dry ditch lies adjacent to the eastern, western and southern site boundaries. The ditch was approximately <1m in width and heavily encroached with vegetation including rush sp., canary reed grass and bramble. This habitat is displayed in photographs 15-16 and 19 within Appendix 3.</p> <p>In January 2024, the ditch was holding water approximately >50cm deep.</p>

4.3 Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment of Trees

Preliminary Roost Assessment Trees

All trees were inspected for Potential Roost Features (PRFs). Trees T1, T2, T4 and trees within groups G2 and G6 (see drawing P.1946.24.01 *Tree Survey*, Appendix 1) within the site have the potential to support roosting bats and were assessed to provide **low** bat roost potential. Tree T1 (Alder) was noted to have a crevice in a branch, Tree T2 (Alder) was identified to have a split within the tree stem, Tree T4 (white willow) was noted to have a missing branch from pruning, two trees (white willows) within group G6 were noted to have pruning wounds and splits in a branch and a tree (white) within G2 was noted to have cracked bark and a broken branch. All other trees within the site were assessed to provide **negligible** bat roost potential.

In January 2024, the trees were found to be in the same condition.

4.4 Protected and Notable Species

Table 4.9: Habitat suitability for protected and notable species, including evidence, further survey information and reference to photographs/drawings where applicable.

Birds	Habitat suitability
	The scattered trees, poor semi-improved grassland, scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and species poor hedgerow provide suitable foraging and nesting opportunities for bird species.
	The site lies within a FC/BTO Wader Zone, Pink-footed Goose Main Roost Area, Pink-footed Goose Major Feeding Area and Whooper Swan SWA. The site provides limited habitat for pink-footed goose and whooper swan as the site is largely overgrown with scrub and prone to regular disturbance. The site lies within a residential area and more suitable habitat for wintering bird species lies within the wider area. The small loss of grassland within the site is not considered to impact these species and no further surveys will be required.
	Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified
	During the survey, swallow, black headed gull, wood pigeon, house martin and dunnock were identified within and flying over the site. During the site visit in January 2024, pink footed geese were heard during the site walkover but were not identified within the vicinity of the site.
Further survey required	
For any vegetation removal to be undertaken, a nesting bird survey will be required (section 5.2).	

Bats	Habitat suitability
	A collapsed building is present within the site but provides no suitable roosting habitat for bats due to poor state of disrepair (see photo 17 in Appendix 3). The collapsed building requires no further consideration with this report. In January 2024, the collapsed building has since been removed from site. Trees T1, T2, T4 and trees within groups G2 and G6 (see drawing P.1946.24.01 <i>Tree Survey</i> , Appendix 1) within the site have the potential to support roosting bats. The scrub, species poor hedgerow, poor semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, wet ditch 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. Tree T1 (Alder) was noted to have a crevice in a branch, Tree T2 (Alder) was identified to have a split within the tree stem, Tree T4 (white willow) was noted to have a missing branch from pruning, two trees (white willows) within group G6 were noted to have pruning wounds and splits in a branch and a tree (white) within G2 was noted to have cracked bark and a broken branch. These trees were assessed to provide low bat roost potential.
	Further survey required
	No further survey for bats will be required at this stage, however trees assessed to provide low bat roost potential will require soft felling in the presence on a licenced ecologist (see section 5.2).
Badger and other small mammals	Habitat suitability
	The poor semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, species poor hedgerow and scrub habitats within the site provide limited foraging and shelter habitat for badger and other small mammal species such as hedgehog.
	Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified
	No evidence of badger or hedgehog was identified within the site during the survey.
	Further survey required
	No further survey effort for badger and other small mammals will be required; however Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) should be implemented (see section 5.2).
Water vole and otter	Habitat suitability
	The ditch that lies adjacent to the eastern, western and southern site boundaries within the site was dry during the site walkover, making for unsuitable habitat for either species. In January 2024, the ditch was holding >50cm water and provides some limited suitable habitat however due to seasonal nature, limited connectivity and human disturbance, the ditch considered to still be unsuitable for water vole and otter.
	Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified
	No evidence of water vole or otter was identified within the site.

	<p>Further survey required</p> <p>Water vole and otter will not be impacted by the proposals within the site, therefore, do not require further consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further within this report.</p>
Amphibians	<p>Habitat suitability</p> <p>No ponds are present within the site. One pond (TN2) is located immediately south of the site but could not be inspected due to land ownership. A further two ponds are present within 250m of the site but are separated from the site by residential dwellings and Pilling Lane.</p> <p>In January 2024, the ditch was holding water, however, is considered unsuitable breeding habitat for GCN and other amphibians due to its transient nature and steep bank sides with limited aquatic vegetation present.</p> <p>The poor semi-improved grassland, scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and species poor hedgerow provide terrestrial habitats for amphibians.</p>
	<p>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</p> <p>No evidence of amphibians was identified within the site during the survey.</p>
	<p>Further survey required</p> <p>No further survey effort for amphibians will be required; however Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) should be implemented (see section 5.2).</p>
	<p>Habitat suitability</p> <p>The habitats within the site provide limited 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 levels of disturbance.</p>
	<p>Species seen / Evidence of presence / Features identified</p> <p>No evidence of reptiles was identified within the site during the survey. No records for reptiles have been returned within 2km of the site.</p>
	<p>Further survey required</p> <p>No further survey for reptile will be required. Reptiles do not required consideration within this planning application and will not be discussed further.</p>

Invasive species

No non-native invasive species were identified within the site during the walkover survey.

5.0 Evaluation and Recommendations

5.1 Designated Sites and Habitats

The proposed development site lies within 250m of statutory sites Morecombe Bay Ramsar/SAC/SPA, Wyre Estuary SSSI and Lune Estuary SSSI. To protect these designated sites during construction works it is recommended that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is produced and implemented. All other non-statutory sites lie over 900m from the proposed development therefore it is considered will not be impacted by the proposals during construction works due to this separation distance. It is likely that surrounding statutory and non-statutory sites, in particular Morecombe Bay Ramsar/SAC/SPA, Wyre Estuary SSSI and Lune Estuary SSSI that lie within 250m of the proposals, will receive and increase in recreational pressure. Whilst the increase is not considered significant to the local population, it is recommended that that a Homeowners' Pack/Advisory Leaflet is provided to each new resident to mitigate for any potential impacts and provide awareness of value and sensitivity of the areas to new residents.

The site lies within a Natural England SSSI Impact Risk Zone and a consultation with Natural England likely be required. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be prepared by Ascerta to assess the impacts of the proposals on Morecambe Bay Ramsar/SAC/SPA.

Mitigation

The habitats on site comprise poor semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, scrub, wet ditch, scattered trees and species poor hedgerow. These habitats are considered to have an ecological value of **within the zone of influence** 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.

Defra Metric Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations are to be produced by Ascerta to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity. It is recommended that a Management Plan is produced 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 poor semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, scrub, scattered trees and species poor hedgerow provide suitable habitat for nesting and foraging bird species. It is recommended that vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (**1st March to 31st 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.

Bats

The habitats on site provide **low** suitability for commuting and foraging bats.

Trees T1, T2, T4 and trees within groups G2 and G6 (see drawing P.1946.24.01 *Tree Survey*, Appendix 1) were assessed to provide **low** bat roost potential. All other trees within the site were assessed to provide **negligible** bat roost potential.

Trees assessed to provide **low** bat roost potential (locations can be viewed on drawing P.1946.24.E01 *Phase One Habitat Survey*, Appendix 1) will require soft felling.

Group G1 will also be lost to accommodate the drainage proposals for the site and the trees within this group were assessed to provide **negligible** bat roost potential.

PRF can develop as trees age, therefore if works have not occurred by January 2025, an updated **preliminary bat roost assessment** of trees to be removed or pruned to accommodate proposals should be undertaken to assess their potential to support a bat roost and to inform further recommendations if required.

Badger and other small mammals

The site provides limited habitat for badger and hedgehog within the poor semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, scrub and species poor hedgerow.

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

- Existing refuge areas (scrub) should be removed by hand so hedgehog within are not harmed during their removal;
- Vegetation clearance applies to all habitats cleared in daytime air temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C;
- The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site;
- Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible;
- Throughout the works all trenches must be covered at night or ramps provided to prevent badger and hedgehog from getting stuck. Large pipes must also be covered to prevent badger access and risk of these species getting stuck; and
- Construction material will be stored on pallets to avoid creating habitat for hedgehog and badger.

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

Invasive species

No non-native invasive species were identified during the walkover survey. As invasive species can colonise very quickly it is recommended that an **updated invasive species check** is undertaken prior to the start of works.

Amphibians

No ponds are present within the site. One pond (TN2) is located immediately south of the site but could not be inspected due to land ownership. A further two ponds are present within 250m of the site but are separated from the site by residential dwellings and Pilling Lane. An updated site visit may be required to carry out a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) for GCN of offsite pond (TN2) as no physical barriers are present between the site and the pond, however there is a lack of suitable aquatic habitat within the wider area as the site is located within a residential area with limited connectivity.

The poor semi-improved grassland, scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and species poor hedgerow provide terrestrial habitats for amphibians. The terrestrial habitats do provide refuge areas and connectivity corridors for amphibians. These habitats are likely to be impacted by the proposals and therefore, it is recommended as the areas to be lost and are small in size that an **Amphibian Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) Method Statement** is implemented during the works to avoid harm to this species. The RAMS should include:

- Existing refuge areas (scrub) should be removed by hand so amphibians within are not harmed during their removal;
- Vegetation clearance applies to all habitats cleared in daytime air temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C;
- The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site;
- Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible;
- Throughout the works all trenches must be covered at night or ramps provided to prevent amphibians from getting stuck; and
- Construction material will be stored on pallets to avoid creating habitat for amphibians.

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:

1. Provision of 6 bird boxes (25mm and 32mm entrance hole box, house sparrow terrace, tree sparrow, swift box), attached to or integrated within new buildings on site;
2. Provision of 6 bat features (e.g. Vivara Pro WoodStone Bat box or similar) attached to a retained tree on site or provision of a bat box (e.g. Vivara bat bricks or '*bird brick houses*' bat boxes) integrated within new buildings; and
3. Suitable landscaping incorporating species that provide a food or shelter resource to wildlife to include hawthorn, hazel, holly, blackthorn, field maple, dog rose and honeysuckle as hedgerow species and oak, alder, field maple, silver birch, crab apple, rowan and bird cherry as tree species together with implementing a relaxed mowing regime and establishing wildflowers in these areas.

6.0 Conclusions

The site was subject to an extended phase one habitat survey. During the survey and following review of historical species records, it is considered that an impact on birds, bats, badger, amphibians and hedgehog 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 January 2025, an updated site visit will be required to assess the habitats within the site and an updated preliminary bat roost assessment of trees that will be lost to the proposals to determine the suitability of any features that may be present to support a bat roost and to inform further recommendations if required;
- Trees T1, T2, T4 and trees within groups G2 and G6 (see drawing P.1946.24.01 *Tree Survey*, Appendix 1) assessed to provide **low** bat roost potential will require soft felling;
- Sensitive lighting to be used to meet the Bat Conservation Trust lighting guidance so not to cause a detrimental effect to light sensitive species;
- Production and implantation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to protect statutory sites within 250m of the site;
- Implementation of a badger and hedgehog RAMS (section 5.2) to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works;
- Implementation of an amphibian RAMS (section 5.2) to avoid any harm to this species during the proposed works;
- Precautionary check for invasive prior to works commencing;
- Enhancing the site for species through appropriate landscape planting that includes native, species rich hedgerows, trees and areas of wildflowers plus provision of integrated bat and bird features within newly constructed buildings;
- 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; and
- Vegetation clearance or pruning should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (1st March to 31st August Inclusive) to avoid any impact on breeding birds. Or a nesting bird check undertaken 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



- Key**
- Site boundary
 - B6 - Semi-improved grassland
 - A2.1 - Scrub
 - C3.1 - Tall ruderal vegetation
 - J2.1.2 - Species poor hedgerow
 - Wet ditch
 - Scattered trees
 - Low BRP
 - ⊙ Target notes
- TN1 - Brush piles
 TN2 - Offsite pond
- BRP - Bat Roost Potential

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 LOCATED TO NG BY BEST FIT TO DETAIL.
 EXTRACTED FROM OS DIGITAL DATA.

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 Breck Homes Limited

PROJECT:
 Rosemount Avenue, Preesall

DRAWING TITLE:
 Phase One Habitat Survey

SCALE: NTS@A3	DRAWN BY: LA	DRAWING No: P.1946.24.E01
DATE: 01/02/2024	CHKD BY: LK	REV: A

Appendix 2

Appendix 2: Species Lists and Target Notes

Table 1: Flora Species

English Name	Scientific Name
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg</i>
Broadleaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Compact rush	<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>
Creeping bent-grass	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Laurel	<i>Laurus sp.</i>
Meadow grass	<i>Poa sp.</i>
Moss	<i>Bryophyta sp.</i>
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea / Jacobaea vulgaris</i>
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
White willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
Willowherb	<i>Epilobium sp.</i>
Yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Table 2: Target Notes

Target Note Number	Description
TN1	Brash piles
TN2	Offsite pond

Appendix 3

Appendix 3: Photographs

Table 3: Photographs of the site



Photograph 1: Scrub within the site



Photograph 2: Poor semi-improved grassland



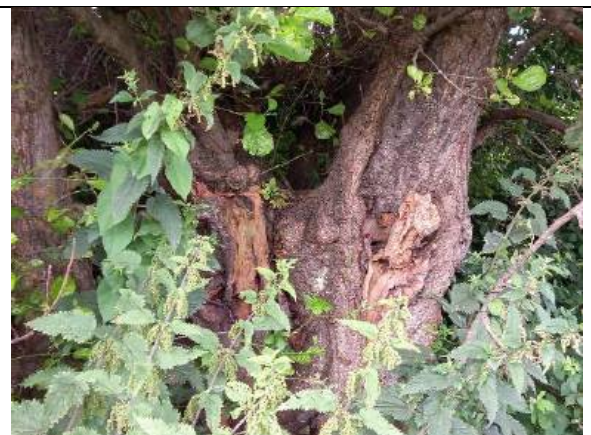
Photograph 3: Scattered trees



Photograph 4: Scattered trees



Photograph 5: Tree T1 with crevice in branch



Photograph 6: Tree T2



Photograph 7: Tree T4 with pruned sections



Photograph 8: White willow in G6 with pruned sections



Photograph 9: White willow in G6 with split in branch



Photograph 10: Species poor hedgerow to the south



Photograph 11: Species poor hedgerow to the north



Photograph 12: Species poor hedgerow that line that site entrance



Photograph 13: Tall ruderal vegetation



Photograph 14: Tall ruderal vegetation



Photograph 15: Dry ditch adjacent to the southern site boundary



Photograph 16: Dry ditch adjacent to the western site boundary



Photograph 17: Collapsed building



Photograph 18: Brush piles (TN1)



Photograph 19: Seasonally wet ditch (2024)



Photograph 20: Semi-improved grassland (2024)



Photograph 21: Scrub within the site (2024)



Photograph 22: Scrub within the site (2024)



Photograph 23: Species poor hedgerow to the north of the site (2024)



Photograph 24: Scattered trees within the site (2024)

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 Biodiversity Metric is being 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. Defra released a beta version of the biodiversity metric in July 2019, with the most recent revision in March 2023. This metric is likely to be the default metric used by councils, with the most recent version to be submitted to support a planning application.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 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: recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services, minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. 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 of 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 (HAP) and Species Action Plans (SAP) and there are also "grouped action plans" for groups of related species with similar conservation requirements. The LBAP relating to this Site is the Lancashire 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; or
- 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 includes: "*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 Wildlife & Countryside 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 8 and 9 of the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines – 3rd Edition (2016) it is a criminal offence to:

"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; and*
- *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 Wildlife and Countryside Act which make 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 Wildlife and Countryside 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 (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 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to 'plant or otherwise cause to grow' in the wild any plant in Schedule 9 Part II.

Other Aquatic Species

Water vole (*Arvicola amphibious*) are a Species of Principal Importance and also fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to:

- *intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection;*
- *intentionally or recklessly disturb water voles whilst occupying a structure or place used for that purpose;*
- *intentionally kill, injure or take water voles;*
- *possess or control live or dead water voles or derivatives;*
- *sell water voles or offer or expose for sale or transport for sale; and*
- *publish or cause to be published any advertisement which conveys the buying or selling of water voles.*

Otter (*Lutra Lutra*) are similarly protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) and have additional protection as a European Species under The Habitats Regulations 2017. White clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) are similarly protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended). They are also a species of Principal Importance. A licence is required in order to sites where these species are suspected to be present.

Brown Hare

Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) is a UK BAP species and habitat on the site were suitable for this species / records of this species occur in the immediate vicinity of the site. During the site visit, a check for brown hares was made that involved walking the site boundaries and surveying with binoculars for hare on site or within the vicinity of the site. Measures were taken to ensure that the hares were not disturbed, where possible. These included walking quietly during the site visit and keeping a suitable distance from any hares, when spotted. The survey was undertaken in the early afternoon and evening when hares are thought to be most active and feeding. Justify if the survey was done at a different time of day.

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 Poulton-le-Fylde and is covered by the Wyre Local Plan 2011 – 2031 (adopted 28 February 2019). Strategic policies (SP1-SP5) and Core Development Management Policy (CDMP4) within the Local Plan document are the policies of relevance here and have been considered when preparing this report. The site is also covered by the Lancaster District Local Plan (adopted July 2020). The policy of relevance is EN 7 within the Local Plan document and has been considered throughout this report.

Appendix 5

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 Ancient Tree Inventory, Woodland Trust
 Accessed 04/2020

Lancashire Environment Record Network
 Planning and Environment
 Lancashire County Council,
 PO Box 100,
 County Hall,
 Preston, PR1 0LD
 lern@lancashire.gov.uk
 http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lern.aspx

Project:

Meadow Avenue

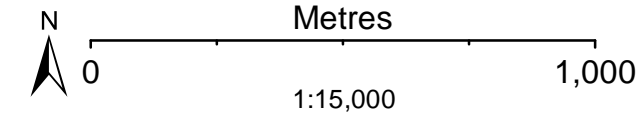
Client:

Ascerta

Grid Ref: 336300 448600

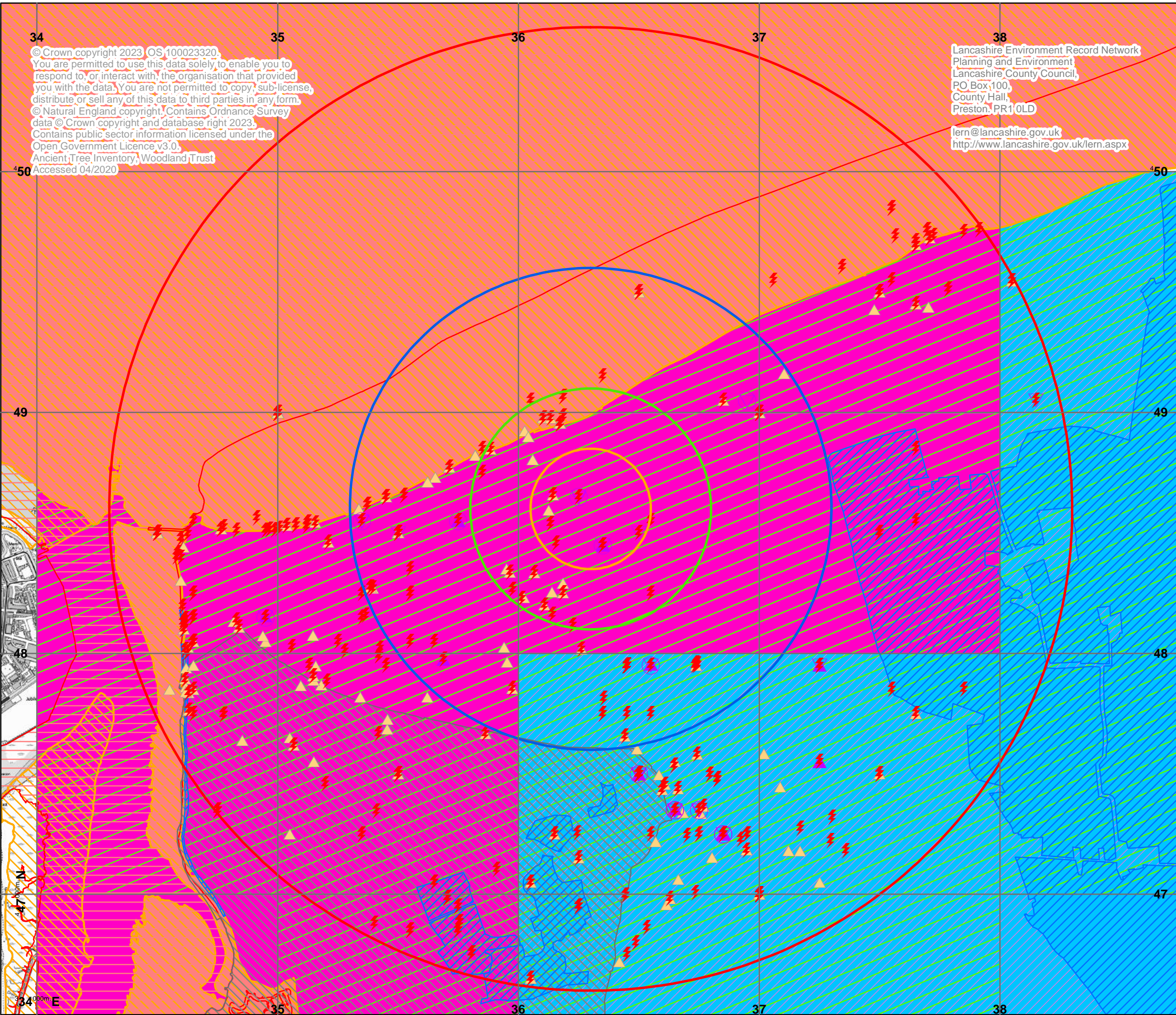
-  250 m Buffer
-  500 m Buffer
-  1 km Buffer
-  2 km Buffer
-  Lancashire Key Species
-  Bat Roost or Possible Roost
-  Other Bat Record
-  SLBG Bat Roost or Possible Roost
-  SLBG Other Bat Record
-  Lancashire INNS
-  Biological Heritage Sites
-  Local Geodiversity Sites
-  Marine Conservation Zones
-  Natura 2000
-  SSSI
-  FC/BTO Wader Zonal Map
-  Pink-footed Goose Main Roost
-  Pink-footed Goose Major Feeding Area
-  Whooper Swan SWA
-  Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
-  Coastal saltmarsh
-  Deciduous woodland
-  Good quality semi-improved grassland
-  Lowland fens
-  Mudflats
-  No main habitat but additional habitats pres.
-  Reedbeds
-  Traditional orchard

**N.B. THIS IS AN INTERACTIVE PDF
 LAYERS CAN BE TURNED ON OR OFF
 TO AID CLARITY.**



Boundaries of statutory designations (Natura 2000, SSSI etc) are included for information only. <ITA> Definitive information for these designations should be obtained from Natural England.

Lancashire Key Species records are plotted at the centre of the area to which they relate (the precision of each record is given in the accompanying attribute data and spreadsheet).





Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

Biological Heritage Sites
Partnership:

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Natural England

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Site Name: ICI Salt Pools

Site Ref: 34NE01

Approved: 01 September 1993

Area (ha): 15.59

Date written/last updated: 01 December 2007

Grid Ref: SD362470

Owner/Occupier: Private

Districts: Wyre
Parishes: Preesall

Description:

The site comprises a series of pools with associated swamp and fen communities, semi-natural grassland and scrub lying south-west of Preesall.

The pools have formed as a result of subsidence following salt-mining operations. They are fringed by stands of common reed together with a variety of marginal plants including branched bur-reed, common reedmace, water-plantain, purple-loosestrife, angelica, gipsywort, sneezewort, bittersweet, red goosefoot, sea club-rush, hard rush and reed canary-grass. Aquatic species include yellow water-lily and spiked water-milfoil. There is a significant reedbed at the south-western end of the site.

At the north-eastern end is an area of swamp dominated by reed canary-grass with common reed, common nettle, common reedmace, rosebay willowherb, bittersweet, yellow iris, meadowsweet and scattered willow scrub.

A mosaic of species-rich grassland, tall ruderal vegetation and scrub adjoins some of the pools and swamps. Ant hills are present in the grassland area. Plant species present include common knapweed, meadow vetchling, common birds-foot-trefoil, dyer's greenweed, common centaury, yarrow, tormentil, field horsetail, rosebay willowherb, common reed, bramble, gorse, hawthorn, alder, blackthorn and willow.

The site supports a variety of birds. Notable breeding birds include reed warbler, shelduck, lesser whitethroat, grasshopper warbler, reed bunting, song thrush and grey partridge. Swift, housemartin, barn owl and tawny owl feed over the area and bittern has been seen here.

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

Grassland	(Gr3)
Swamp and Fen	(Fe1)
Artificial Habitats	(Ar1)

Other Information/Comments:

The site adjoins Clods Carr Lane Fields Biological Heritage Site (BHS 34NE02).

Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

ICI Salt Pools

 **Site Boundary**

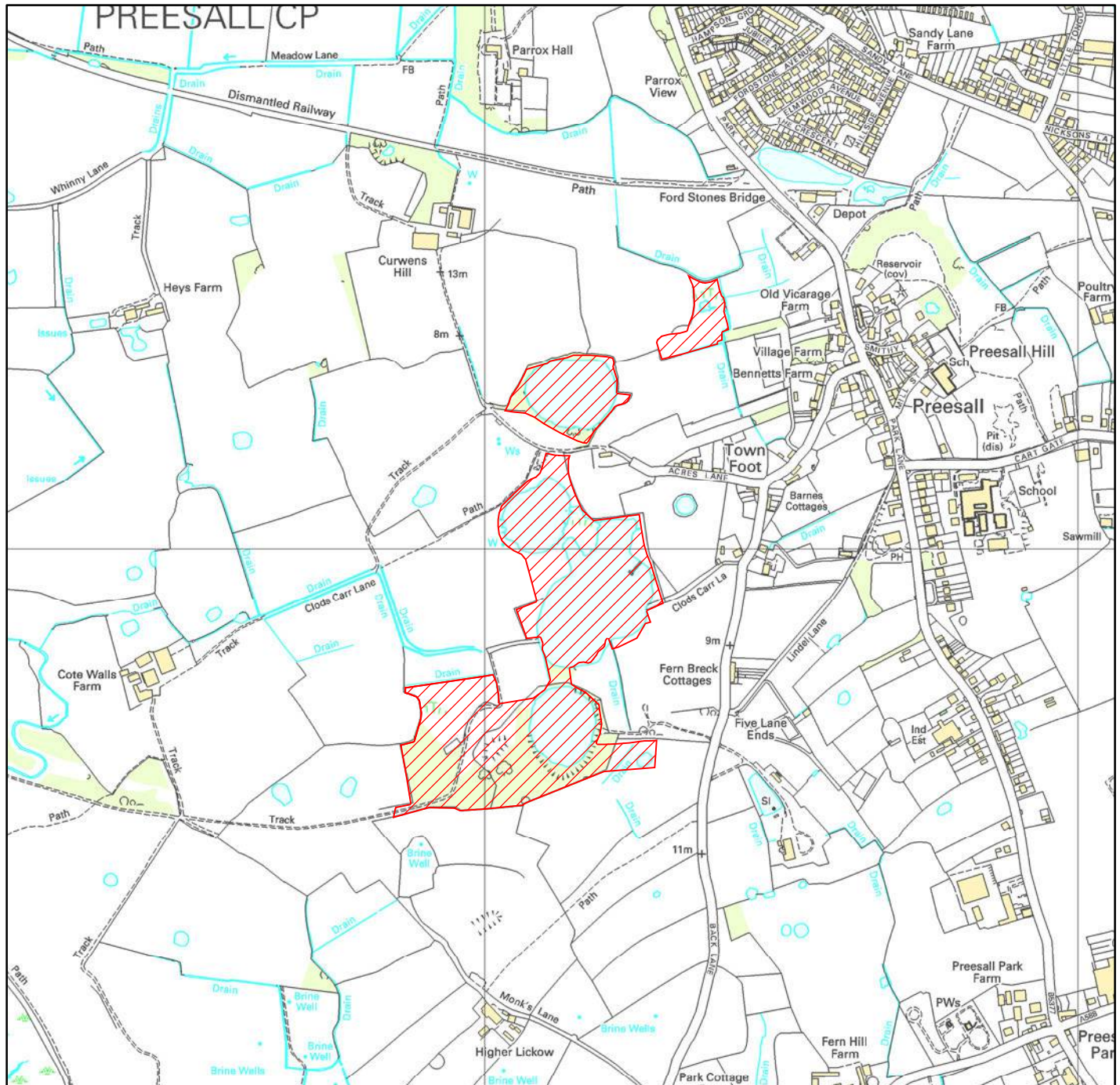
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Ref No. 34NE01

Biological Heritage Sites Partnership

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Grid ref. SD360466

Scale 1:10,000

Site approved

Map 1 of 1

Boundary revised

Date of Map 29/09/14





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Biological Heritage Site

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Site Name: Clods Carr Lane Fields

Site Ref: 34NE02

Approved: 01 November 1998

Area (ha): 8.41

Date written/last updated: 01 November 1998

Grid Ref: SD357468

Owner/Occupier: Private

Districts:

Wyre

Parishes:

Preesall

Description:

The site comprises a series of three adjoining arable fields situated approximately 1km south west of Preesall. The fields are bounded partly by hedgerows and partly by ditches, some of which contain stands of common reed.

The fields support a rich assemblage of arable weeds including tall ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria bastardii*) and a very large population of the nationally scarce purple ramping-fumitory (*Fumaria purpurea*). Both species are listed in the *Provisional Lancashire Red Data List of Vascular Plants*. Purple ramping-fumitory is also a priority UK Biodiversity species.

Other arable weeds found in the fields include corn marigold, sun spurge, corn spurrey, common ramping-fumitory, common fumitory, common orache, redshank, charlock, red dead-nettle, cut-leaved dead-nettle, common hemp-nettle and bifid hemp-nettle.

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff4a)

Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff2)

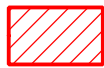
Other Information/Comments:

The site adjoins ICI Salt Pools Biological Heritage Site (BHS 34NE01).

Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

Clods Carr Lane Fields



Site Boundary

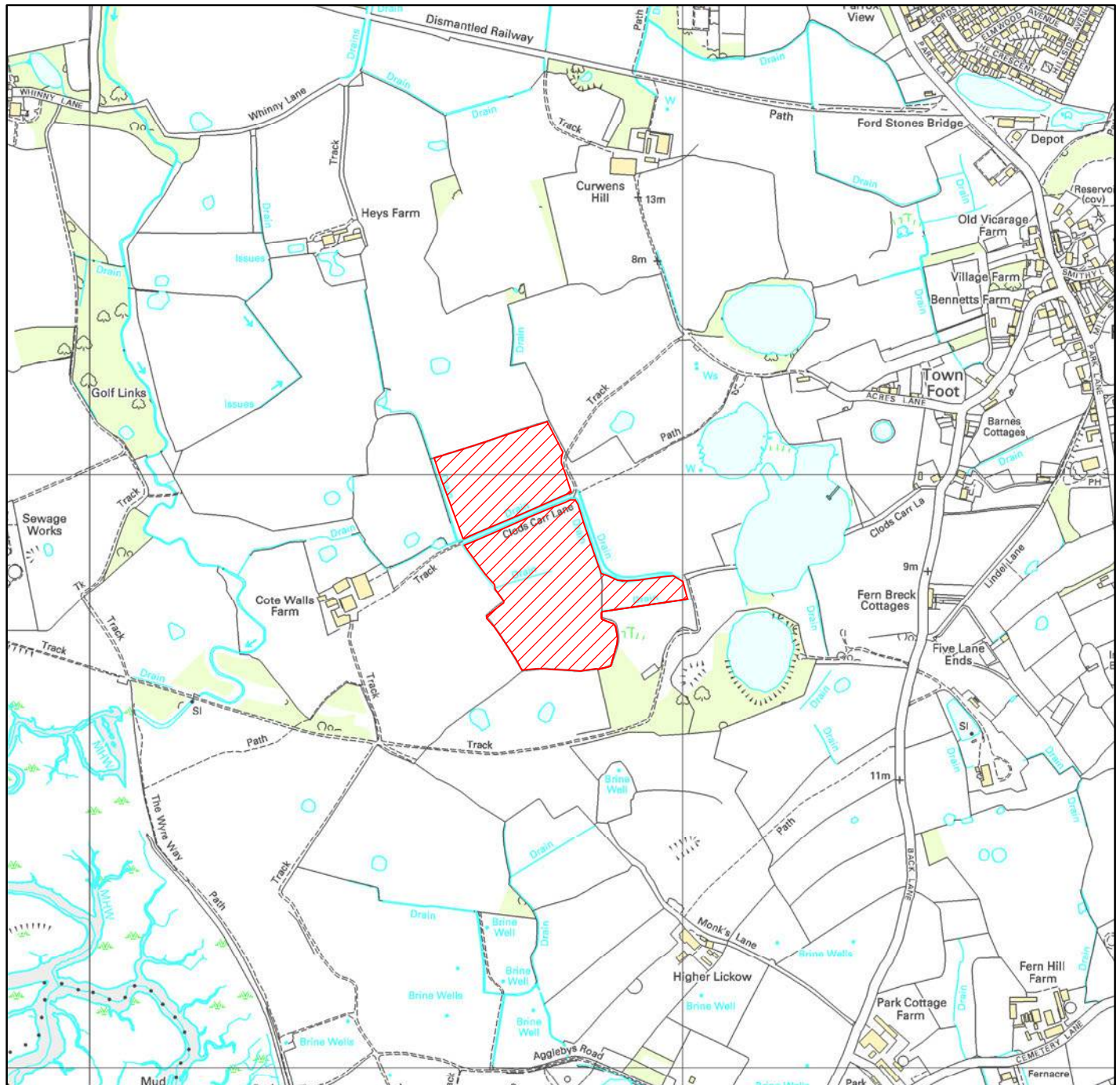
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Grid ref. SD358468

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Date of Map 29/09/14





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Site Name: Pilling Moss - Head Dyke

Site Ref: 34NEW1

Approved:

Area (ha): 789.72

Date written/last updated:

Grid Ref: SD390470

Owner/Occupier:

Districts:

Wyre

Parishes:

Out Rawcliffe, Pilling, Preesall, Stalmine-with-Staynall

Description:

The site comprises 790 hectares of farmland north of Moss Edge Lane and Union Lane extending to the A538 Head Dyke Lane and continuing northwards to the coast at Fluke Hall.

The site is of ornithological importance as a winter feeding ground for flocks of Pink-footed Geese and Whooper Swans with bird numbers exceeding 0.5% of the British wintering population.

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

Birds (AvW)

Other Information/Comments:

Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

Pilling Moss - Head Dyke

 **Site Boundary**

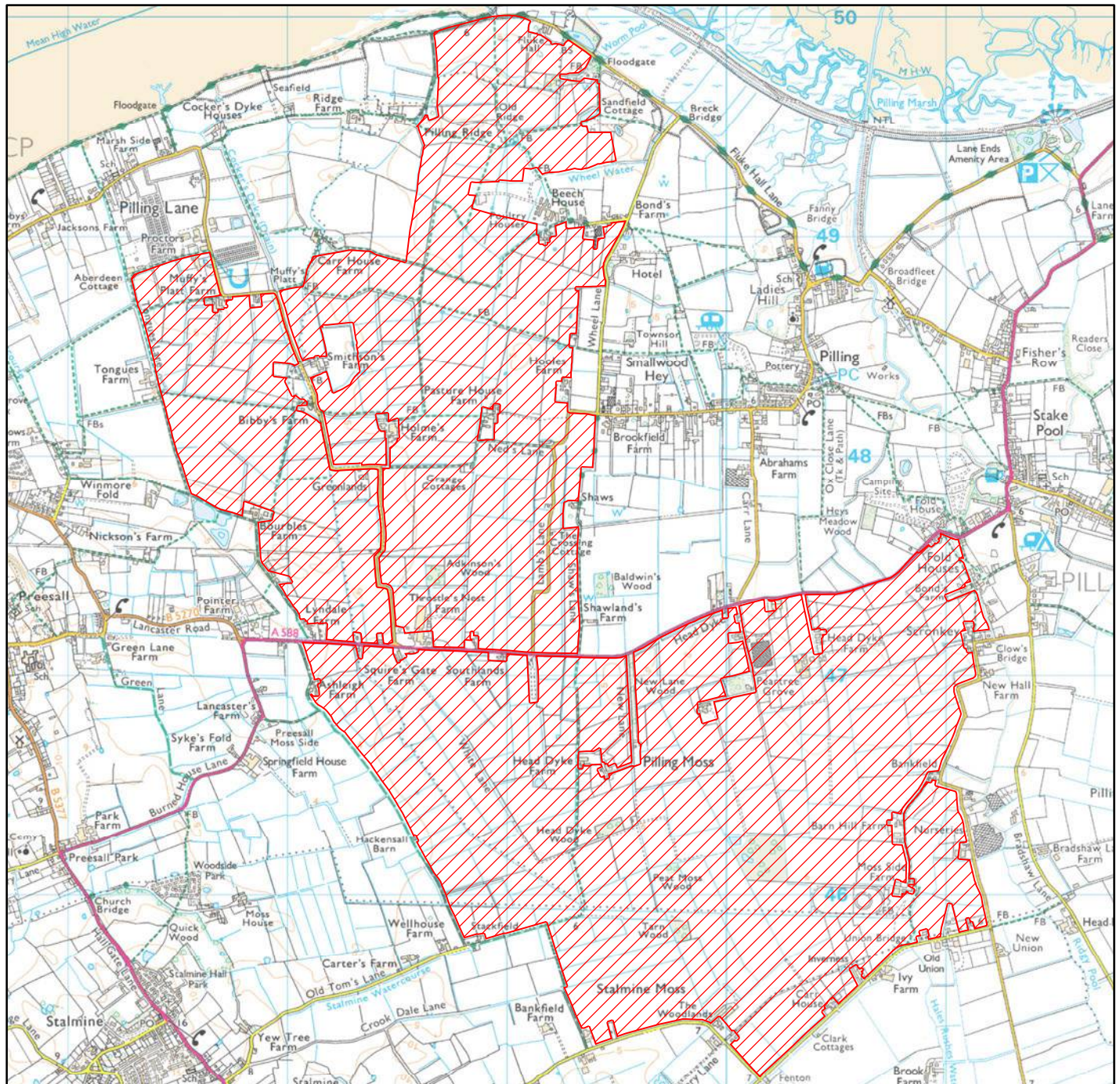
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Ref No. 34NEW1

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Scale 1:27,000

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Biological Heritage Site

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Site Name: Hackensall Brows

Site Ref: 34NW09

Approved: 01 November 1998

Area (ha): 1.26

Date written/last updated: 01 November 1998

Grid Ref: SD346473

Owner/Occupier: Private

Districts:

Wyre

Parishes:

Preesall

Description:

The site comprises a series of low clay cliffs and sea defences which lie on the eastern side of the tidal River Wyre at Knott End. A variety of habitats are present including species-rich flushed and dry grasslands, bare ground, stone setts and accumulated tidal debris.

The sea defences at Knott End are formed of a slope of stone setts. The gaps between the setts have been colonized by a range of coastal plants including three species listed in the *Provisional Lancashire Red Data List of Vascular Plants*, namely rock samphire, sea wormwood and common sea-lavender. Other species found here include scurvy grass, false-fox sedge, sea couch, sea beet and sea couch.

Further south the sea defences are formed by natural clay cliffs augmented by sections of piling and stone setts. The cliffs support unmanaged species-rich neutral grasslands dominated by red fescue with occasional crested dog's-tail, Yorkshire-fog, cock's-foot and occasional rye-grass. False-fox and glaucous sedges are frequent. Herbs are abundant in the sward with frequent common knapweed, hard rush, yellow-rattle, ribwort, fairy flax, selfheal, tufted vetch and meadow vetchling. Species which are occasional include sea milkwort, harebell, wild carrot, hemlock water-dropwort, sea plantain, perennial sow-thistle, colt's-foot and heath goundsel. There are a number of flushed areas which support additional species such as fleabane, meadowsweet, great willowherb, yellow iris and celery-leaved buttercup. Additional areas of stone setts support rock sea-lavender which is listed in *British Red Data Books: Vascular Plants*.

Locally at the foot of the cliff the vegetation more closely resembles saltmarsh with sea arrowgrass, saltmarsh rush, distant sedge and sea club-rush.

There is scattered gorse scrub and local patches of ivy and bare ground.

Tidal debris has accumulated at the base of the cliffs and this provides habitat for the snail *Ovatella myosotis*.

Guideline(s) for Site Selection:

- Coastal (Co2)
- Flowering Plants and Ferns [(Ff4b)]
- Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff4a)
- Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff3)
- Flowering Plants and Ferns (Ff1)

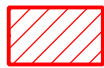
Other Information/Comments:

The site adjoins part of the Wyre Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Biological Heritage Site

Hackensall Brows



Site Boundary

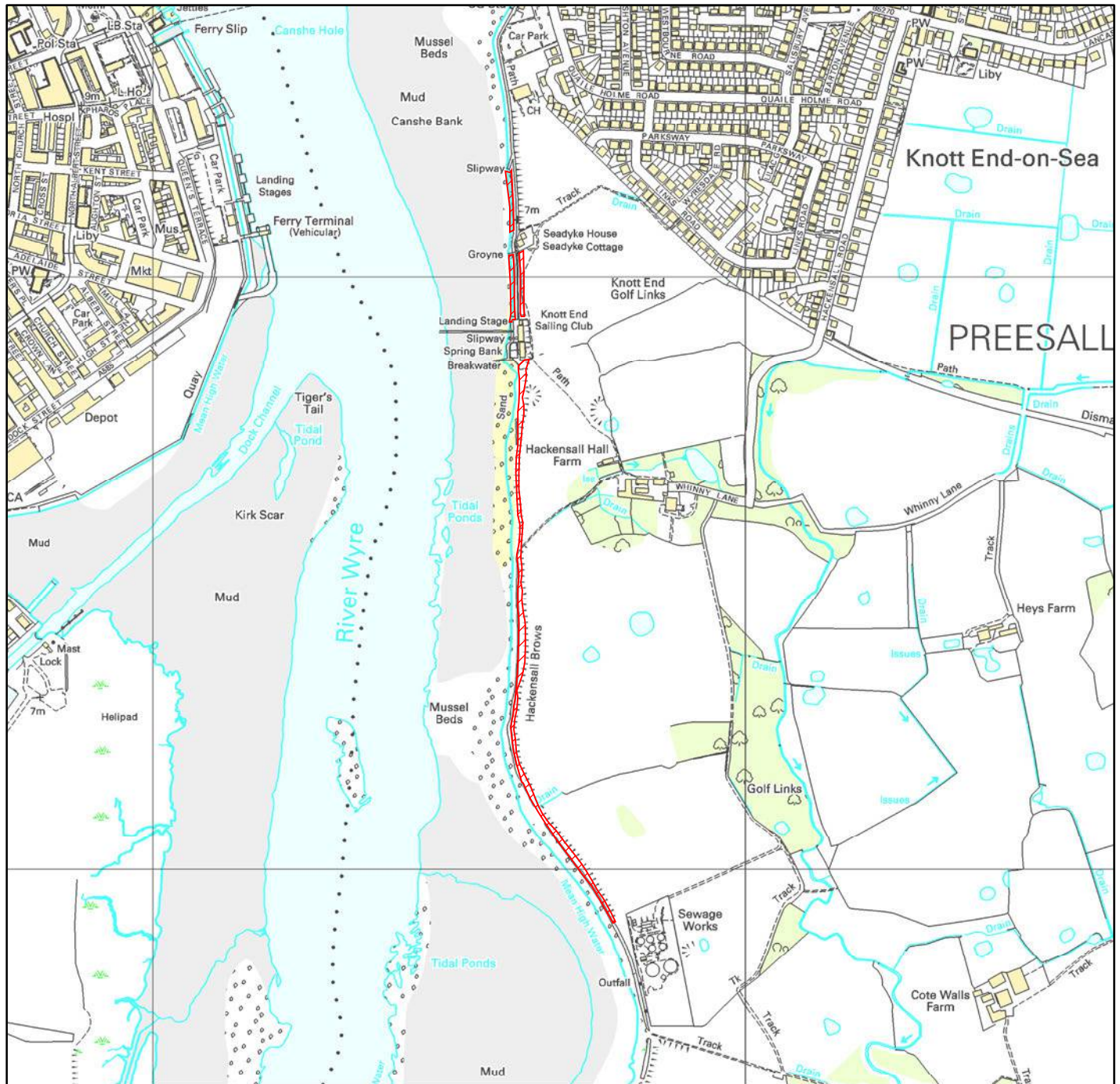
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