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**MEETING:** PLANNING CONTROL COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 10 February 2004

**SUBJECT:** SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN BURY – 2002  
REVIEW

**REPORT FROM:** BOROUGH PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICER

**CONTACT OFFICER:** CHRIS WILKINSON, ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS OFFICER

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**TYPE OF DECISION:** Non-key

**REPORT STATUS:** FOR PUBLICATION

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**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

This report identifies recent changes made by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit to the Register of Sites of Biological Importance in Bury and recommends that the updated register is adopted for planning purposes.

**OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTION (with reasons):**

To adopt the updated Register of Sites of Biological Importance for planning purposes.

or

Not to adopt the updated Register.

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**IMPLICATIONS -**

**Financial Implications and  
Risk Considerations**

**None additional**

**Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:**

Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes No

Are there any legal implications? Yes No  (see paragraph 1.1)

**Considered by Monitoring Officer:** Yes  Comments

**Statement by Director of Finance  
and E-Government:**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

**Staffing/ICT/Property:**

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**Scrutiny Interest:**

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**TRACKING/PROCESS**

**DIRECTOR:**

Chief Executive/ Management Board	Executive Member/ Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Panel	Executive	Committee	Council

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**1.0 BACKGROUND (brief)**

**1.1** Members will be aware that the Borough's Unitary Development Plan identifies a number of Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) that policies EN6/1 and EN6/2 seek to protect from damaging development. The wildlife value of sites is however, not static; it may increase or decrease as vegetation changes, neighbouring land changes in character, or survey information improves. The UDP policies anticipate this by referring to both existing SBIs and those to be designated in the future.

**1.2** The Greater Manchester Register of Sites of Biological Importance is maintained and updated on behalf of the ten Greater Manchester Districts by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit. The entries relating to Bury are kept by the Borough Planning and Economic Development Officer. The Unit's Service Level Agreement requires it to re-survey each SBI every 10 years. The Greater Manchester sites are classed as Grade 'A' (of County Importance) 'B' (of District Importance) and 'C' (of more than local importance).

**1.3** The last revisions to the Register of SBIs were endorsed by Members of the Planning Control Committee at the meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2001. Since then the following changes have occurred.

- 4.10.01 Cyrus Ainsworth Nurseries – description changed.
- 10.10.01 Cockey Moor wood pasture and marsh – boundary amendment
- 16.11.01 Grassland near Brandlesholme Old Hall – boundary amendment
- 8.4.02 Bradley Fold – boundary amendment
- 23.10.02 Baldingstone – boundary amendment
- 7.1.03 Hollins Plantation – description changed
- 16.1.03 Ainsworth Lodge – boundary amendment
- 8.4.03 Pilsworth Bleach Works – site deleted – cleared for development
- 15.5.03 Springside flushes – boundary amendment
- 18.6.03 Starling Road reservoir – new site.

**1.4** Overall, between 2001 and 2002 there was an increase in the area of SBIs in the Borough of 4.6 hectares (from 725.3 to 729.9).

## **2.0 ISSUES** (brief)

- 2.1** Unlike Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Sites of Biological Importance do not have statutory protection. However, they are recognised (in PPG9 and elsewhere) as a planning tool to protect local biodiversity, with designation allowing identified sites to be protected from development requiring planning permission.
- 2.2** The designation of SBIs is an objective and methodical process of evaluating sites against set criteria. Bury Council has consistently chosen to use the designation as a way of protecting the Borough's wildlife by incorporating SBIs into the planning process.
- 2.3** Following recent surveys, one new site has been designated, at Starling Road, a small reservoir and marsh. One site, Pilsworth Bleach Works, has been deleted following works related to the implementation of an old planning consent. Eight others have been amended slightly.
- 2.4** A list of current SBIs and a location plan is attached to this report.

## **3.0 CONCLUSION** (brief)

Since it was last reported on to Planning Committee, the Register of Sites of Biological Importance has gained a new site, lost an old one and received amendments to 8 existing sites.

The updated Register describes the current state of the most valuable sites of wildlife interest in the Borough more accurately than the previous version. It is therefore a better tool for planning use.

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### **List of Background Papers:-**

Register of Sites of Biological Importance in Greater Manchester.

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## Sites of Biological Importance in Bury

Last updated 26.11.03

	Site name	Grade	Grid reference	First surveyed	Last revision
1	Ainsworth Lodge	C	SD770093	15.7.81	13.8.2002
2	Baldingstone	B	SD812144	8.81	14.6.2002
3	Barracks Lodge	A	SD784103	5.6.2000	
4	Black Lane Marl Pits	A	SD781084	5.9.1988	5.6.1996
5	Bottoms Hall Wood	B	SD764140	28.1.1986	20.4.2000
6	Bradley Fold	B	SD757087	6.1981	31.8.2001
7	Brandlesholme Old Hall grassland	B	SD785128	8.8.1996	9.5.2001
8	Broadhey Wood	A	SD788151	7.1981	2.11.1998
9	Bull Hill & Holcombe Moor	A	SD763181	8.1981	20.1.1999
10	Carr Barn Wood	C	SD789176	8.1981	18.1.1999
11	Chapel Field Reservoir	B	SD789062	3.1986	24.6.1999
12	Cockey Moor Road Ponds	B	SD767104	2.2.1993	1.3.2000
13	Cockey Moor wood pasture	B	SD771108	2.8.1999	31.8.2001
14	Coggra Fold wetlands and meadows	A	SD765085	7.1991	1.3.2000
15	Crow Lumb Wood	C	SD791162	21.12.1987	25.8.1998
16	Cyrus Ainsworth's Nurseries	B	SD782111	6.1981	31.8.01
17	Daisyfield	B	SD792099	7.1981	21.4.1998
18	Dick Field Clough	B	SD784171	8.9.1992	
19	Dingle Reservoir	C	SD767068	16.6.1992	
20	Edgar's Field	B	SD799166	15.4.1991	
21	Elton Reservoir	A	SD788095	4.1981	15.3.2000
22	Elton Goyt	B	SD792090	9.10.1991	
23	Gollinrod Wood	A	SD798153	24.7.1985	12.4.1991
24	Gorses Quarry	B	SD811131	24.9.1992	4.6.1998
25	Hawkshaw & Boardman's Farm	A	SD756163	28.9.1992	
26	Hawkshaw Brook	A	SD759147	6.1981	29.10.1992
27	Heaton Park Reservoir	A	SD825050	4.1981	24.2.1999
28	Hollins Plantation	C	SD820080	24.10.91	26.3.2002
29	Hollins Vale	B	SD818085	8.1981	22.4.1996
30	Kirklees Brook	A	SD783130	7.1981	16.1.1997
31	Kirklees Meadow	B	SD780132	18.9.1992	17.12.1996
32	Lower Hinds	A	SD795096	4.1981	31.8.1994
33	M, B & B Canal	A	SD758066	4.1981	19.5.1995
34	Parr Brook flushes	C	SD814068	2.11.1992	22.10.96
35	Philips Park & North Wood	A	SD799038	8.81	12.4.00
36	Pilsworth	B	SD830084	8.1981	30.9.1999
37	Prestwich Clough	B	SD807034	8.1981	12.3.1996
38	Redisher Wood	A	SD770160	8.1981	17.5.2000
39	Rhodes Farm	A	SD785039	20.5.1998	
40	Ringley Woods	A	SD785045	5.1981	7.11.1995
41	Sailor's Brow	C	SD798067	7.1981	2.1986
42	Shore Top Reservoir	B	SD766064	4.1981	4.6.1998
43	Smethurst Wood	C	SD837115	9.1981	10.8.1998
44	Spence Lane wetlands	A	SD766156	18.9.1992	
45	Spence Moor ponds	B	SD783093	17.6.1998	15.3.2000
46	Springside flushes	B	SD791136	18.9.1992	22.8.2002
47	Starling Road Reservoir	C	SD773098	13.8.2002	
48	Swan Lodge	B	SD796086	4.1981	4.6.1998
49	Radcliffe wetland	C	SD787078	11.6.1987	
50	Withins Reservoir	C	SD784087	4.1981	23.10.1991