
MEETING: PLANNING CONTROL COMMITTEE

DATE: 28 JUNE 2005

SUBJECT: SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN BURY – 2004
REVIEW

REPORT FROM: BOROUGH PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

CONTACT OFFICER: CHRIS WILKINSON, ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
OFFICER

TYPE OF DECISION:

REPORT STATUS: FOR PUBLICATION

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 be adopted for planning purposes.

OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED OPTION:

It is recommended that Committee adopt the updated Register of Sites of Biological Importance for planning purposes.

Other options (not recommended) are not to adopt the updated Register, or to partially adopt the updated Register. If the updated Register is not adopted some sites will not be able to be protected from development which may damage their wildlife value.

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

The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the recommendation is in compliance with current planning legislation and policy guidance issued by the Secretary of State and is consistent with the Bury UDP.

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:

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

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

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 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 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 Ecology Unit’s Service Level Agreement requires it to re-survey each SBI at least every 10 years. However, it was becoming apparent that some sites had not been checked for as much as 15 years (due to increasing workload for the GMEU associated with planning applications and appeals). To ensure that the Council continues to make decisions on the basis of up to date

information, the Unit were commissioned in February 2004, with funding from Planning Delivery Grant, to bring the Register for Bury up to date.

2.0 ISSUES

- 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** The last revisions to the Register of SBIs were endorsed by Members of the Planning Control Committee at the meeting of the 10th February 2004. The new survey work has resulted in 32 revisions to the Register; One new site has been identified, one lost and one merged with an adjacent SBI. Three sites have been downgraded.
- 2.4** A list of changes to the register, a list of current SBIs and a location plan are attached to this report.

3.0 CONCLUSION

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.

BRIAN DANIEL
BOROUGH PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

List of Background Papers:-

Register of Sites of Biological Importance in Greater Manchester.

Contact Details:-

Chris Wilkinson
Environmental Projects Officer
Planning and Economic Development Division
Craig House
Bank Street
Bury BL9 0DN
Tel: 0161 253 5269

Changes to the SBI Register since February 2004

<i>SBI</i>	<i>Reason for change in this review (main changes in bold type)</i>
Black Lane Marl pits	Extension of area near Radcliffe Cemetery.
Bradley Fold	Downgrading due to damage associated with public use of site.
Broadhey Wood	Boundary detail
Carr Barn Wood	No change
Chapelfield	Downgrading and loss of area due to damage associated with adjacent housing development
Crow Lumb Wood	Minor boundary detail
Dingle Reservoir	Merged with adjacent MBB Canal SBI
Daisyfield	Small extension of area.
Dick Field Clough	Minor boundary change
Edgar's Field	Downgraded due to habitat deterioration
Elton goit	Small extension of area.
Gorses Quarry	Small extension of area.
Hawkshaw Brook	Removal of field near Three Gates Farm
Holcombe Moor	Considerable extension of area following re-survey.
Hollins Vale	Small extension of area.
Kirklees Brook	Boundary detail.
Kirklees Meadow	Loss of SBI due to habitat deterioration.
Lower Hinds	Minor boundary detail
MBB Canal	Extended by addition of Dingle Reservoir
Nuttall Farm pasture	New site
Parr Brook	Reduction in area due to habitat deterioration/inappropriate management.
Pilsworth	No change
Prestwich Clough	No change
Radcliffe wetland	Minor boundary changes
Redisher Wood	Extensions and boundary detail
Ringley Woods	Minor boundary changes
Sailor's Brow	Minor boundary changes
Shore Top	Minor boundary changes
Smethurst Wood	Minor boundary changes
Spenceleach wetland	Small reduction in area
Swan lodge	Small extension to include parts of Bealeys and Hutchinsons goits.
Withins Reservoir	Minor boundary changes.

Sites of Biological Importance in Bury

	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	9.7.2004
5	Bottoms Hall Wood	B	SD764140	28.1.1986	20.4.2000
6	Bradley Fold	C	SD757087	6.1981	9.7.2004
7	Brandlesholme Old Hall grassland	B	SD785128	8.8.1996	9.5.2001
8	Broadhey Wood	A	SD788151	7.1981	23.4.2004
9	Carr Barn Wood	C	SD789176	8.1981	27.5.2004
10	Chapel Field Reservoir	C	SD789062	3.1986	23.6.2004
11	Cockey Moor Road Ponds	B	SD767104	2.2.1993	1.3.2000
12	Cockey Moor wood pasture	B	SD771108	2.8.1999	31.8.2001
13	Coggra Fold wetlands and meadows	A	SD765085	7.1991	1.3.2000
14	Crow Lumb Wood	C	SD791162	21.12.1987	19.6.2003
15	Cyrus Ainsworth's Nurseries & Parker's lodges	B	SD782111	6.1981	31.8.2001
16	Daisyfield	B	SD792099	7.1981	11.6.2004
17	Dick Field Clough	B	SD784171	8.9.1992	16.6.2003
18	Edgar's Field	B	SD799166	15.4.1991	16.6.2004
19	Elton Goyt	B	SD792090	9.10.1991	11.6.2004
20	Elton Reservoir	A	SD788095	4.1981	15.3.2000
21	Gollinrod Wood	A	SD798153	24.7.1985	12.4.1991
22	Gorses Quarry	B	SD811131	24.9.1992	3.6.2004
23	Hawkshaw & Boardman's Farm	A	SD756163	28.9.1992	
24	Hawkshaw Brook	A	SD759147	6.1981	29.9.2004
25	Heaton Park Reservoir	A	SD825050	4.1981	24.2.1999
26	Holcombe Moor	A	SD763181	8.1981	1.9.2004
27	Hollins Plantation	C	SD820080	24.10.91	26.3.2002
28	Hollins Vale	B	SD818085	8.1981	27.5.2004
29	Kirklees Brook	A	SD783130	7.1981	11.6.2004
30	Lower Hinds	A	SD795096	4.1981	31.8.1994
31	M, B & B Canal	A	SD758066	4.1981	23.6.2004
32	Nuttall Farm pasture	B	SD793160	19.6.2003	
33	Parr Brook	C	SD814068	2.11.1992	27.5.2004
34	Philips Park & North Wood	A	SD799038	8.81	12.4.2000
35	Pilsworth	B	SD830084	8.1981	9.7.2004
36	Prestwich Clough	B	SD807034	8.1981	8.4.2004
37	Radcliffe wetland	C	SD787078	11.6.1987	19.5.2004
38	Redisher Wood	A	SD770160	8.1981	17.8.2004
39	Rhodes Farm	A	SD785039	20.5.1998	
40	Ringley Woods	A	SD785045	5.1981	23.4.2004
41	Sailor's Brow	C	SD798067	7.1981	19.5.2004
42	Shore Top Reservoir	B	SD766064	4.1981	23.6.2004
43	Smethurst Wood	C	SD837115	9.1981	8.4.2004
44	Spenleach Lane wetlands	A	SD766156	18.9.1992	17.8.2004
45	Spen 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	3.6.2004
49	Withins Reservoir	C	SD784087	4.1981	3.6.2004

SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND 'PROTECTED SPECIES' SITES MAY 2005

