

# REPORT FOR DECISION



Agenda  
Item

8

**MEETING:** PLANNING CONTROL COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 28 OCTOBER 2014

**SUBJECT:** SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE: 2013 REVIEW

**REPORT FROM:** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LOCALITIES)

**CONTACT OFFICER:** CHRIS WILKINSON

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**TYPE OF DECISION:** COMMITTEE

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:** This report is within the public domain

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**SUMMARY:** This report describes the purpose and application of the Register of Sites of Biological Importance in Bury. It also identifies the latest changes made to the Register. In 2013 no new sites were added or deleted, eight existing sites were reviewed and for these no grades or boundaries were changed. However, changes were made to the description of the value of one of the eight, the 'Wetlands at Radcliffe' site behind Coney Green School.

**OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION** It is recommended that Planning Control Committee adopts the 2013 update of the Register of Sites of Biological Importance for use in development planning and management.

Other options (not recommended) are to not adopt the updated Register, or to partially adopt the updated Register.

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**IMPLICATIONS:****Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:**

Policies EN6/1 and EN6/2 of the Council's adopted Unitary Development Plan and EN6 of the Publication version of the Local Plan set out the Council's approach to managing development affecting existing and future SBIs.

**Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:**

The costs of the AGMA Ecology Unit, which compiles and updates the SBI Register, are funded through existing budgets.

**Statement by Executive Director of Resources:**

**None**

**Equality/Diversity implications:**

None.

**Considered by Monitoring Officer:**

Yes  
Para 117 of the National Planning Policy Framework provides that planning policies should identify and map sites of importance for nature conservation. Updating the Register of Sites of Biological Importance will help to ensure that the Council complies with national planning guidance.

**Wards Affected:**

All

**Scrutiny Interest:**

N/A

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**TRACKING/PROCESS****DIRECTOR: Mike Owen – Executive****Director of Resources and Regulation**

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

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**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 harmful 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 Head of Planning Policy and Projects. The sites are classed as Grade 'A' (of regional or county Importance) 'B' (of district importance) and 'C' (of importance within the *identified* geographical locality).
- 1.3 The Ecology Unit's Service Level Agreement requires it to re-survey each SBI at least every 10 years. It does this incrementally and produces an annual review of the sites it has surveyed in the previous year. The 2012 review was reported to committee on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 (P700). The 2013 changes are the subject of the current report.

## 2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 Para 117 of the National Planning Policy Framework says that 'To minimise impacts on biodiversity..., planning policies should....identify and map....locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity'. Para 118 says that 'when determining planning applications,.....if significant harm from a development (*to biodiversity*) cannot be avoided... planning permission should be refused.
- 2.2 Unlike Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Sites of Biological Importance do not have statutory protection. However, the designation of 'regional and local sites' (i.e. SBIs) is promoted (in the NPPF and elsewhere) as a planning tool for conserving and enhancing biodiversity. Designation allows identified sites of ecological value to be protected from harmful development that requires planning permission.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 A list of changes to the register, a list of current SBIs and a location plan are attached to this report. The register has not changed substantially for some years.
- 2.5 An ECIA Initial Screening Assessment is appended to this report. It finds that the proposal to adopt the updated SBI Register serves an existing policy with minimal implications for equality or cohesion.

## 3.0 CONCLUSION

The 2013 update of the Greater Manchester Register of Sites of Biological Importance describes the current state of the most valuable sites of wildlife interest in the Borough. It will assist the Council in making decisions, particularly on planning applications, in accordance with government guidance, adopted Council policy and good practice. Its adoption is therefore recommended.

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**List of Background Papers:-**

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (2008) 'Greater Manchester Sites of Biological Importance Selection Guidelines'

**Website:-**

<http://www.tameside.gov.uk/ecologyunit/sbi>

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## APPENDIX 1: DISTRICT SYNOPSIS

### SBI REVIEW 2013



### BURY – DISTRICT SYNOPSIS

In the review period January – December 2013 the Ecology Unit visited and revised 8 SBIs representing 16% of Bury's SBIs.

During the review period no new sites were added to or deleted from the Register.

The following sites recorded no changes to the site boundary or area, but revisions of the site description may have occurred: **Gollinrod Wood, Carr Barn Wood, Crow Lumb Wood, Bradley Fold, Broadhey Wood & Woodhey, Wetlands near Radcliffe, Withins Reservoir and Lower Hinds.**

Technical gains and losses are often due to the increasing accuracy used to draw boundaries and measure areas. Techniques used include orthorectified aerial photographs, which can be overlaid on the GIS system with the OS map base. This enables boundaries to be drawn to the edges of habitats where a clearly definable ground feature (e.g. fences, walls, streams etc) is not appropriate to use. In addition site areas are automatically calculated by the GIS system and a new OS base was acquired in 2013. There were no technical changes to any sites in Bury in 2013.

**APPENDIX 2: FACT SHEET**

**SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN BURY  
2013 REVIEW**



**DISTRICT FACT SHEET (All areas in hectares)**

**BURY**

				<b>Net Change 2012 – 2013</b>	
	<b>1984</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF SBIS</b>	27	50	50	-	-
<b>TOTAL AREA OF SBIS</b>	691.3	923.9	923.9	-	-
<b>TOTAL NUMBER GRADE A</b>	9	19	19	-	-
<b>TOTAL AREA GRADE A</b>	554.4	761.5	761.5	-	-
<b>TOTAL NUMBER GRADE B</b>	10	20	20	-	-
<b>TOTAL AREA GRADE B</b>	65.0	118.1	118.1	-	-
<b>TOTAL NUMBER GRADE C</b>	8	11	11	-	-
<b>TOTAL AREA GRADE C</b>	71.9	44.3	44.3	-	-
<b>Grid Ref</b>	<b>Change in Grade of existing SBI</b>			<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
-	-			-	-
<b>Grid Ref</b>	<b>New Sites</b>			<b>Grade</b>	<b>Area</b>
-	-			-	-
<b>Grid Ref</b>	<b>Site Deleted in Part or in Total</b>		<b>Grade</b>	<b>Area Lost</b>	<b>Present Total</b>
-	-		-	-	-

<b>Grid Ref</b>	<b>Partial Gains</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Area Gained</b>	<b>Present Total</b>
-		-	-	-
<b>Grid Ref      Site visited with no change/change to description only</b>				
SD787078	Wetland near Radcliffe			
SD798153	Gollinrod Wood			
SD789176	Carr Barn Wood			
SD791161	Crow Lumb Wood			
SD756086	Bradley Fold			
SD788151	Broadhey Wood & Woodhey			
SD784087	Withins Reservoir			
SD794096	Lower Hinds			

**APPENDIX 3: LIST OF SBIs**

# SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN BURY 2013



## DATE LAST SURVEYED

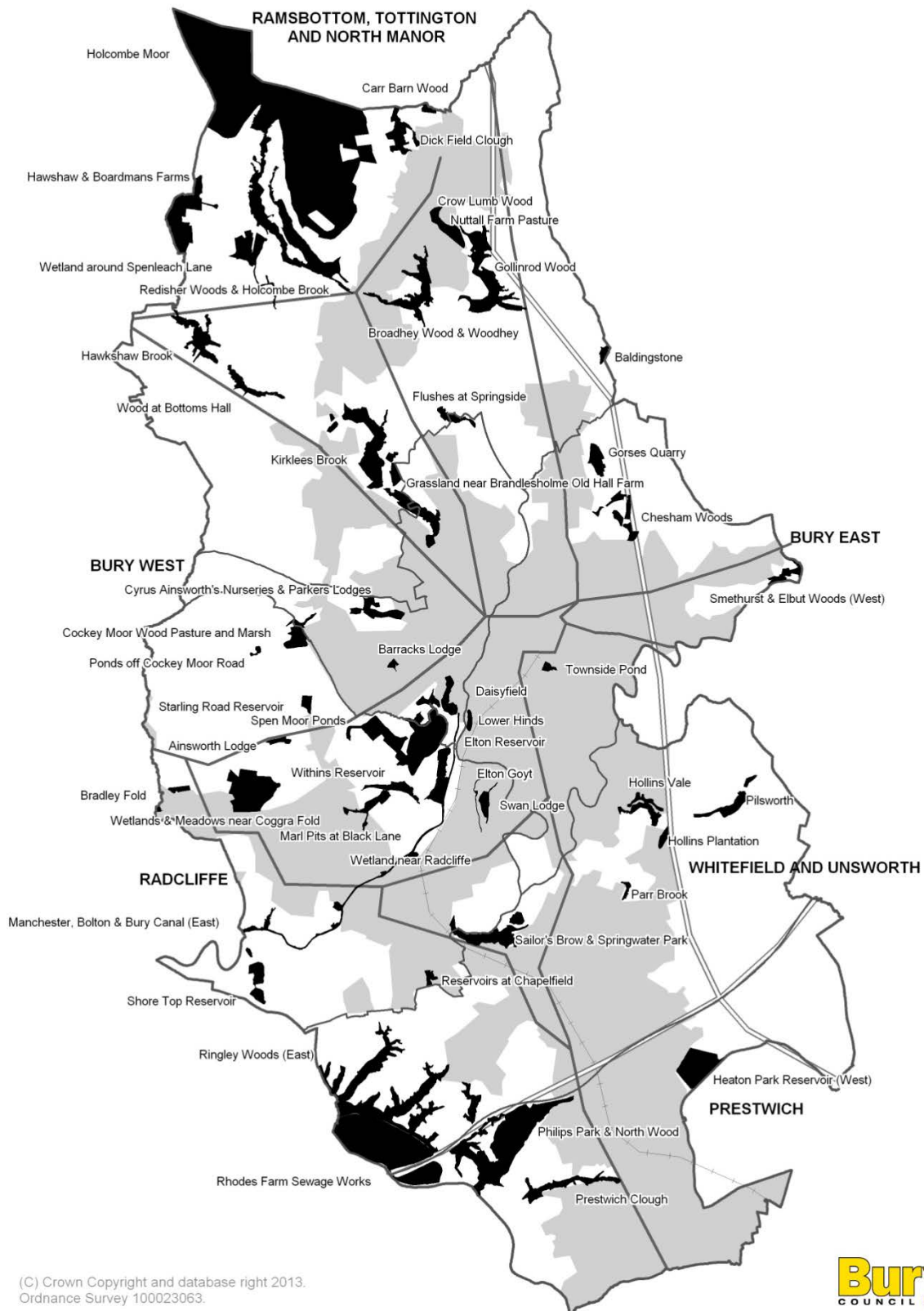
Site Name	Grid ref.	Grade	District Ref.	Last Updated
Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal (East)	SD764068 - SD793096	A	C1	2.7.09
Bradley Fold	SD756086	C	C2	27.8.13
Hawkshaw Brook	SD759146	A	C3	2.6.11
Hawkshaw & Boardmans Farms	SD756163	A	C4	15.9.92
Shore Top Reservoir	SD766063	B	C5	24.8.11
Reservoir & Canal Banks (East)	SD767068	C	C6X	23.6.04
Wetlands & Meadows near Coggra Fold	SD765085	A	C7	15.8.08
Ponds off Cockey Moor Road	SD767104	B	C8	17.9.12
Wood at Bottoms Hall	SD764140	B	C9	21.8.07
Wetland around Spenleach Lane	SD766156	A	C10	10.10.06
Holcombe Moor	SD770178	A	C11	4.10.12
Ainsworth Lodge	SD770093	B	C12	14.6.12
Redisher Woods & Holcombe Brook	SD767162	A	C13	2.6.10
Ringley Woods (East)	SD785045	A	C14	8.5.08
Reservoirs at Chapelfield	SD789062	C	C15	23.7.10
Wetland near Radcliffe	SD787078	C	C16	8.8.13
Marl Pits at Black Lane	SD781084	A	C17	14.6.10
Withins Reservoir	SD784087	B	C18	8.8.13
Elton Reservoir	SD788095	A	C19	12.5.09
Cyrus Ainsworth's Nurseries and Parker's Lodges	SD782110	B	C20	17.9.12
Meadow above Kirklees Valley	SD780132	B	C21X	11.6.04
Kirklees Brook	SD782130	A	C22	6.8.09
Broadhey Wood and Woodhey	SD788151	A	C23	1.5.13
Dick Field Clough	SD785173	B	C24	2.6.11
Carr Barn Wood	SD789176	C	C25	1.5.13
Phillips Park & North Wood	SD799038	A	C26	16.8.11
Sailor's Brow & Springwater Park	SD798067	C	C27	8.9.09
Swan Lodge	SD796085	B	C28	8.8.09
Elton Goyt	SD790086	B	C29	2.7.09
Lower Hinds	SD794096	A	C30	8.8.13
Daisyfield	SD791098	B	C31	6.5.09
Flushes at Springside	SD791136	B	C32	21.8.07
Gollinrod Wood	SD798153	A	C33	1.5.13
Crow Lumb Wood	SD791161	C	C34	1.5.13
Edgars Field	SD799166	C	C35X	15.8.08
Prestwich Clough	SD807034	A	C36	24.8.11
Lodges at Shuttleworth	SD806177	C	C37X	24.2.99
Parr Brook	SD815074	C	C38	2.7.09



**SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN BURY 2013****DATE LAST SURVEYED**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Grid ref.</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>District Ref.</b>	<b>Last Updated</b>
Hollins Vale	SD818085	B	C39	29.6.10
Gorses Quarry	SD811131	B	C40	20.5.10
Baldingstone	SD812144	B	C41	14.6.12
Heaton Park Reservoir (West)	SD825050	A	C42	10.3.10
Hollins Plantation	SD820080	C	C43	19.4.12
Pilsworth Bleach Works	SD822083	C	C44X	8.4.03
Pilsworth	SD830084	B	C45	9.7.04
Burrs	SD789129	C	C46X	2.86
Grassland near Brandlesholme Old Hall Farm	SD785128	B	C47	26.6.11
Smethurst & Elbut Woods (West)	SD837115	C	C48	26.8.10
Spenn Moor Ponds	SD783094	B	C49	24.6.11
Rhodes Farm Sewage Works	SD785039	A	C50	13.6.06
Barracks Lodge	SD784103	A	C51	23.7.10
Cockey Wood Pasture & Marsh	SD772109	B	C52	17.9.12
Starling Road Reservoir	SD773098	C	C53	17.9.12
Nuttall Farm Pasture	SD793160	B	C54	19.6.03
Townside Pond	SD805103	B	C55	24.6.11
Chesham Woods	SD815123	C	C56	30.4.09

# APPENDIX 4: SBI LOCATION MAP



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