



# **Biodiversity Information Report 05/04/2019**

**MBB reference: 2789-EcologyPractice  
Site: land south of M62, St Helens**

Your Ref: None supplied  
Your contact: Mark Morgan

MBB Ref: 2789-EcologyPractice  
MBB Contact: Ben Deed

Date: 05/04/2019

## Merseyside BioBank biodiversity information report

These are the results of your data request relating to **an area at land south of M62, St Helens defined by a buffer of 2000 metres around a site described by a boundary you supplied to us (at SJ5520590537).**

You have been supplied with the following:

- records of **protected** taxa that intersect the search area
- records of **BAP** taxa that intersect the search area
- records of **Red Listed** taxa that intersect the search area
- records of other '**notable**' taxa that intersect the search area
- records of WCA schedule 9 taxa (including '**invasive plants**') that intersect the search area
- a map showing the location of monad and tetrad references that overlap the search area
- a list of all **designated sites** that intersect your search area
- citations, where available, for intersecting Local Wildlife Sites
- a list of **other sites of interest** (e.g. Ancient Woodlands) that intersect your search area
- a map showing such sites
- a list of all **BAP habitats** which intersect the search area
- a map showing BAP habitats
- a summary of the area for all available mapped **Phase 1 and/or NVC habitats** found within your site
- a map showing such habitats

Merseyside BioBank (MBB) is the Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) for North Merseyside. We collect and collate biological and environmental information and make it available to people and organisations that have need to access such information in North Merseyside. We promote the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan and wider participation in biological recording and conservation through education, community involvement and by supporting the biological recording community of North Merseyside.

Merseyside BioBank is an information node of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and integrate records from our own databases with those of the NBN Atlas.

The product charge for this data request is not a charge for the data themselves, but rather a fixed rate that enables us to cover a portion of our running costs. Our annual income from data requests is something less than 20% of our total running costs.

## Species records

The biological records held by Merseyside BioBank come from a variety of sources; from large organisations to individual amateur naturalists. Merseyside BioBank operates as managers or custodians of these records but the individuals and groups, who provide their records free of charge, retain copyright on their data. Without their contribution, we would not be able to provide the records included in this report. Their efforts, expertise and goodwill make a substantial contribution to the protection of North Merseyside's biodiversity.

**You may only use the records in this document subject to our access terms and conditions which can be found in Appendix 1. Non-adherence to these terms and conditions will be viewed as a breach of contract, which may result in legal redress being sought.**

This report also integrates records from the NBN Atlas. Some NBN data providers give us permission to download and integrate their records at a higher resolution than available through public access in order to contribute to the protection of North Merseyside's biodiversity.

Details of the biological records summarised in the following tables, and the sources from which they are derived, have been provided separately. Note that the date ranges in the summary tables (headed 'Dates') show the earliest and latest years for which records have been summarised for each taxon.

### **UK Protected Species**

'UK Protected species' are those taxa specifically identified by UK legislation including: Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The latter regulations enact the European Union's (EU) Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in the UK and supercede The Conservation Regulations 1994 and 2010. In our list of protected species, you may see designations that refer to schedules in the 1994 and 2010 regulations, but these remain unchanged under the 2017 regulations.

Some protected species may not be legally disturbed unless you are in possession of an appropriate license. If you are in any doubt as to whether or not a license is required, you should contact Natural England.

The following tables detail the protected species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
amphibian	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	36	1921-2017	WCA5/9.5a
	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	47	1918-2017	WCA5/9.5a
	Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	63	2005-2016	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
	Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	88	2000-2016	WCA5/9.5a
bird	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1	1997	WCA1i
	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	1	1998	WCA1ii
	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	2	1998	WCA1i
	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	1	1997	WCA1i
bony fish (Actinopterygii)	Barbel	<i>Barbus barbus</i>	1	2009	HabRegs4
flowering plant	Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	16	1981-2008	WCA8
insect - butterfly	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	1	2000	WCA5/9.5a
terrestrial mammal	Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2	2005	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
	Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	21	2002-2014	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	22	1981-2010	WCA5/9.4.a,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.4c
	Long-eared Bat species	<i>Plecotus</i>	1	1991	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
	Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	5	2011-2014	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC

				A5/9.4c
Nyctalus Bat species	<i>Nyctalus</i>	1	2010	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
Nyctalus/Eptesicus agg.	<i>Nyctalus/Eptesicus agg.</i>	1	2010	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
Pipistrelle Bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	1	2010	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	1	2010	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	3	2013-2014	HabRegs2,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WC A5/9.4c

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
WCA5/9.5a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5a)	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.
HabRegs2	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2017 (Schedule 2)	Schedule 2- European protected species of animals.
WCA5/9.4b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4b)	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
WCA5/9.4c	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5)	Animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.
WCA1i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)	Birds and their young, for which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb at, on or near an active nest. They are protected by special penalties at all times.
WCA1ii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 2)	Birds afforded special protection during the close season but which may be killed or taken outside this period. They are protected by special penalties during the close season.
HabRegs4	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 4)	Schedule 4- Animals which may not be taken or killed in certain ways
WCA8	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 8)	Plants which are protected from intentional picking, uprooting or destruction (Section 13 1a); selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative) (Section 13 2a); advertising (any of these) for buying or selling (Section 13 2b).
WCA5/9.4.a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4, subdivision a)	Section 9.4 subdivision a - Animals which are protected from intentional damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection.

### **North Merseyside BAP Species**

The North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan (NM BAP) was published in September 2001 and last reviewed in 2008. Like other Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) its purpose is to focus local conservation on national priority species and habitats. However, LBAPs also embrace the idea of 'local distinctiveness' and species which are not considered UK conservation priorities can be catered for by LBAPs if they are of particular local significance. Such is the case with the NM BAP which currently names 74 species of which 57 are not conservation priority species but are included because their conservation is considered to be a priority in North Merseyside.

The following tables detail the North Merseyside BAP species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
amphibian	Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	63	2005-2016	LBAP
bird	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	6	1997-2002	LBAP
	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	6	1997-2002	LBAP
	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	3	1997-1998	LBAP
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	9	1997-2004	LBAP
	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	8	1997-2000	LBAP
	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	9	1997-2002	LBAP
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	6	1997-1998	LBAP

	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	5	1997-1998	LBAP
	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	2	1997-1998	LBAP
flowering plant	Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	16	1981-2008	LBAP
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	30	1994-2012	LBAP
	Black Darter	<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	1	2006	LBAP
	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	2	2010	LBAP
	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	38	1988-2010	LBAP
	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	32	2000-2012	LBAP
	Brown Hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	9	2002-2009	LBAP
	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	16	1988-2013	LBAP
	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	21	1988-2017	LBAP
	Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	5	2008-2009	LBAP
	Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	19	1999-2012	LBAP
	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	44	2000-2010	LBAP
	Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	19	1994-2012	LBAP
	Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	6	2001-2011	LBAP
	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	13	2006-2017	LBAP
	Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	4	2008-2009	LBAP
terrestrial mammal	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	32	1999-2019	LBAP
	Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2	2005	LBAP
	Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	21	2002-2014	LBAP
	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	22	1981-2010	LBAP
	Long-eared Bat species	<i>Plecotus</i>	1	1991	LBAP
	Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	5	2011-2014	LBAP
	Nyctalus Bat species	<i>Nyctalus</i>	1	2010	LBAP
	Nyctalus/Eptesicus agg.	<i>Nyctalus/Eptesicus agg.</i>	1	2010	LBAP
	Pipistrelle Bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	1	2010	LBAP
	Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	1	2010	LBAP
	Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	3	2013-2014	LBAP

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
LBAP	North Merseyside BAP	Species that are incorporated within the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan. These species may or may not also be UK BAP species. Some species have their own action plans within the NM BAP, others are members of group species action plans.

### NM BAP species: Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

Great Crested Newt is thought to have been in decline since the 1940s. Over a period of five years in the 1980s 2% of all UK colonies were lost, and although Britain remains a stronghold for this species, it is now considered to be dependant on conservation and is afforded international protection.

There is no current North Merseyside population estimate, though recent surveys suggest that in the general North West area around 25% of ponds have Great Crested Newts. A study of the parts of the Sefton Coast showed that a number of populations were present.

This species is highly dependant on the quality of ponds and also the habitat in the surrounding area (where they forage and hibernate away from the water). Habitat loss is the greatest cause of decline with many ponds being drained or drying up as a result of natural succession. Removal of scrub and woodland in addition to over-grazing and intensive management of surrounding grassland is also

detrimental. Other factors which may affect population levels include predation by fish and waterfowl, habitat fragmentation and pollution.

**NM BAP species: Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)**

Nationally this species has significantly declined with a loss of 90% of the UK population between 1970 and 2005 and large contractions in the species range.

Locally Corn Bunting is thought to have undergone severe declines with only an estimated 200 pairs remaining in 1997-99. Corn Buntings are sparsely distributed across much of North Merseyside's arable farmland.

Declines are thought to be caused by changes in agricultural practices. Sowing cereals later in the year, increasing use of herbicide and the removal of fallow fields have all greatly reduced winter seed sources. Increasing use of pesticides has reduced the availability of invertebrate food sources. Earlier crop harvesting may also result in the destruction of some nests, especially where there are limited uncropped areas.

**NM BAP species: Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)**

The UK population of Grey Partridge declined by 88% between 1970 and 2005 and though still widespread shows distinct variation according to agricultural practices. In North Merseyside there were an estimated 300 pairs in 1997-99 and they are present in all suitable habitat.

Loss of suitable habitat is the main cause of decline in this species, with changes in agricultural practices being particularly detrimental. The amalgamation of small fields into a larger ones and the removal of hedgerows, ditches and other field margins have destroyed potential nesting sites. Changes in sowing, harvesting and crop type have removed essential winter food sources.

**NM BAP species: Urban Birds (*Delichon urbicum*; *Passer domesticus*; *Sturnus vulgaris*; *Apus apus*)**

The four species covered by the NM BAP Urban Birds Species Action Plan (House Martin, Swift, House Sparrow and Starling) are considered to be in significant decline across the UK. In North Merseyside House Sparrows and Starlings currently breed in all urban areas, while House Martins are restricted to areas nearer sources of mud for nest-building. Swifts occurred in only 55 tetrads during 1997-2000.

Urban bird numbers are thought to relate strongly to the availability of prey species, and nesting opportunities.

Declines are most likely caused by the reduction in the diversity and abundance of invertebrate prey species resulting from increased 'tidiness' in our parks and gardens, the use of pesticides and other changes in farm practices. The exclusion of urban birds from breeding in or around modern buildings reduces nesting opportunities for urban birds.

**NM BAP species: Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)**

Between 1987 and 1998 Lapwing declined by 48% in England and Wales with Wales and the SW of England showing greatest loss. Two thirds of the population is now resident in the N and NW of England.

Locally this species continues to breed in all suitable habitats and the 2002-03 surveys indicated a population of around 1,500 pairs with arable farmland and pockets of grassland being particularly favoured.

Local threats are thought to include development in nesting areas, increasing recreation and disturbance, scrub encroachments on coastal grassland and changes in farm practice towards silage production, livestock and agricultural intensification.

**NM BAP species: Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)**

Although Skylark is widespread throughout Europe and large numbers are thought to breed in the UK, it is in significant decline with a fall in the population of 75% between 1972 and 1996 on lowland farms and an overall fall in the UK population of 53% between 1970 and 2005.

Locally Skylark breeds in all remaining suitable habitat and in 1997-2000 there were 750 breeding pairs but declines are thought to reflect the national trend.

This species relies heavily on traditional arable farming and so declines have largely been due to changes in farming practices in recent decades. Conversion to silage production, changes in sowing times and general agricultural intensification have all been particularly detrimental by reducing nesting habitat and sources of food.

Other causes of decline include overgrazing, disturbance during the breeding season and loss of grassland to development and tree planting.

**NM BAP species: Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)**

Although still widespread, Song Thrush declined sharply by around 73% in farmland (mid 1970s) and 49% in woodland (1968-1993), while overall UK numbers fell by 50% between 1970 and 2005. The North of the UK is thought to have been hit hardest.

In North Merseyside, though thinly distributed, Song Thrush still breed in most areas with an estimated 500 pairs during 1997-2000. Highest breeding concentrations were found to occur in suburban areas where abundant garden and parkland habitats were present.

Song Thrush are reliant on a variety of habitats to meet their needs at different times of the year and loss of these habitats is causes a reduction in numbers.

Local factors in the decline of the species include changes in farm practices that remove nesting habitat (hedgerows and dense scrub), limit the abundance of winter food (changes in sowing, cropping and use of herbicides/molluscicides) or cause the loss of feeding habitat (use of pesticides/herbicides and monocropping).

**NM BAP species: Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)**

British Bluebells make up about 20% of the global population of *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and are often found in humid woodland habitat, along hedgerows and on occasion along the coast. Locally there are a number of good colonies.

Local threats to the species include possible over-shading in un-managed woodlands, localised trampling by the public in popular areas and hybridisation with the Spanish Bluebell. On a national

scale declines are caused by the loss of woodland habitat, grazing by introduced Muntjac, collection of plants and hybridisation with Spanish Bluebell.

**NM BAP species: Dragonflies** (*Coenagrion puella*; *Sympetrum danae*; *Orthetrum cancellatum*; *Ischnura elegans*; *Libellula depressa*; *Aeshna grandis*; *Enallagma cyathigerum*; *Sympetrum striolatum*; *Lestes sponsa*; *Anax imperator*; *Libellula quadrimaculata*; *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*; *Aeshna mixta*; *Sympetrum sanguineum*; *Aeshna cyanea*)

Twentyone species of dragonfly and damselfly are included in the NM BAP Dragonflies Species Action Plan. These include vagrant species and some which are thought to be undergoing range expansions in the UK. Eighteen of these species are known to breed in our local area, with significant breeding sites in St Helens and Sefton.

Local causes of decline in this include the destruction or damage of essential wetland habitat through development, waste-tipping and agricultural run-off. Removal of nearby feeding habitats such as woodlands, hedgerows and tall vegetation is also detrimental.

**NM BAP species: Brown Hare** (*Lepus europaeus*)

Whilst still well distributed in North Merseyside it is thought that the local population of Brown Hare declined in-line with National trends which have shown severe declines in the western pastoral parts of the country to around 20% of the numbers present in Victorian times.

Reasons for local declines are thought to include loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat to development, illegal hunting and changes in farming practices and land use that cause increased disturbance (changes in cropping/sowing times, livestock trampling and recreation).

**NM BAP species: Bats** (*Plecotus auritus*; *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*; *Nyctalus noctula*; *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

The NM BAP Bats Species Action Plan covers all species found in North Merseyside since all are considered to be locally threatened.

Bat Species are found throughout North Merseyside, with Pipistrelles (Common/Soprano) most often encountered and Brown Long-eared and Noctules less common. Daubenton's are also frequently encountered in suitable wetland habitat. Whiskered, Brandt's and Natterers are considered rare locally.

Bat species will roost in many locations that are warm, dark, sheltered and little undisturbed. Such places can include derelict buildings, barns, roof spaces and tree hollows.

Factors causing declines in these species include the loss of prey insects due to the increased use of pesticides and general park/garden 'tidiness', loss and fragmentation of habitat mosaics, loss of winter roosts in old trees and buildings and intentional exclusion from buildings by people.

**NM BAP species: Water Vole** (*Arvicola amphibius*)

This species is found throughout Britain but localised to areas of suitable habitat near water. Previously common this species has undergone severe range and population reductions, with a national survey showing a decline of around 89% since 1939, estimated to increase to a loss of 94% by 2000.

Merseyside appears to be a stronghold for the species with 75% of sites surveyed having Water Voles present in 1989-90. Though they may still be in decline locally, it is thought to be at a lower level than nationally.

Local declines in the species are caused by inappropriate management of bank-side habitats and waterside developments as well as predation by invasive species such as mink. The use of rodenticides and loss of habitat connectivity may also be factors in population declines.

### **NERC Act Section 41 Species**

Known also as 'Species of Principle Importance in England' and the 'England Biodiversity List' this list was developed to meet the requirements of Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). The list is derived, almost wholly, from the 2012 revised list of 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' priority species. (So called 'research only' moth species have been excluded from the report.) The section 41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 'to have regard' to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions. In particular:

- Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities must use it to identify the species that should be afforded priority when applying the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to maintain, restore and enhance species and habitats.
- Local Planning Authorities must use it to identify the species that require specific consideration in dealing with planning and development control, recognising that under NPPF the aim of planning decisions should be to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity.
- All Public Bodies must use it to identify species that should be given priority when implementing the NERC Section 40 duty.

The following tables detail the NERC Section 41 species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
amphibian	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	47	1918-2017	Sect.41
	Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	63	2005-2016	Sect.41
bird	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	1	1997	Sect.41.suppl
	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	6	1997-2002	Sect.41.suppl
	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	1998	Sect.41
	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	6	1997-1998	Sect.41.suppl
	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	6	1997-2002	Sect.41
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	9	1997-2004	Sect.41
	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	8	1997-2000	Sect.41
	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	1	1998	Sect.41
	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	6	1997-2000	Sect.41.suppl
	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	3	1997-1998	Sect.41
	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	9	1997-2002	Sect.41,Sect.41.suppl
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	6	1997-1998	Sect.41.suppl
	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2	1997	Sect.41
	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	5	1997-1998	Sect.41.suppl
	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	2	1998-2002	Sect.41
	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1	1998	Sect.41
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	2	1997-1998	Sect.41.suppl	

	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	7	1997-2002	Sect.41
insect - butterfly	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	1	2000	Sect.41
	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	9	1988-2006	Sect.41
insect - hymenopteran	Red-shanked Carder- bee	<i>Bombus rudericus</i>	1	2004	Sect.41
insect - moth	Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	31	2004-2006	Sect.41
	Sallow	<i>Cirrhia icteritia</i>	13	1996-2006	Sect.41
	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania comma</i>	9	2006	Sect.41
terrestrial mammal	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	32	1999-2019	Sect.41
	Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2	2005	Sect.41
	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	22	1981-2010	Sect.41
	Long-eared Bat species	<i>Plecotus</i>	1	1991	Sect.41
	Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	5	2011-2014	Sect.41
	Nyctalus Bat species	<i>Nyctalus</i>	1	2010	Sect.41
	Pipistrelle Bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	1	2010	Sect.41
	Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	3	2013-2014	Sect.41
	West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	13	2005-2017	Sect.41

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
Sect.41	Natural Env. and Rural Communities Act 2006. Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41)	Species "of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.
Sect.41.suppl	Supplementary list to deal with S41 bird sub-sp problems	Bird species corresponding to British sub-species listed in section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006).

### **IUCN Red-listed Species**

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (sometimes called 'Red Data Book' species) indicates the conservation status of plants and animals that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. The system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those plants and animals that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). The IUCN Red List also includes information on plants and animals that are categorized as 'Extinct' or 'Extinct in the Wild'; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information ('Data Deficient'); and on plants and animals that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme ('Near Threatened').

The following tables detail the IUCN Red-listed species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
flowering plant	Box	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	1	1990	RLGB.DD
	Common Cudweed	<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	1	2013	RLGB.Lr(NT)
	English Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus anglica</i>	1	2008	RLGB.Lr(NT)
	Large-flowered Hemp- nettle	<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	1	2011	RLGB.VU
	Water-soldier	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	1	1981	RLGB.Lr(NT)
fungus	Brown Birch-Bolete	<i>Leccinum scabrum</i>	3	2013-2015	RLGB.DD
	Greyshank Bolete	<i>Leccinum cyaneobasileucum</i>	1	2015	RLGB.DD
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Alder Leaf Beetle	<i>Agelastica alni</i>	12	2012-2017	RLGB.DD

insect - butterfly	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	1	2000	RLGB.Lr(NT)
	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	9	1988-2006	RLGB.Lr(NT)
terrestrial mammal	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	22	1981-2010	RLGB.EN
	Long-eared Bat species	<i>Plecotus</i>	1	1991	RLGB.EN
	Nyctalus Bat species	<i>Nyctalus</i>	1	2010	RLGB.Lr(NT)
	Pipistrelle Bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	1	2010	RLGB.Lr(NT)
	Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	1	2010	RLGB.VU
	West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	13	2005-2017	RLGB.VU

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
RLGB.DD	IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat or Lower Risk. Listing of taxa in this category indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research will show that a threatened category is appropriate.
RLGB.Lr(NT)	IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.
RLGB.VU	IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.
RLGB.EN	IUCN (2001) - Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.

### **Nationally Notable Species**

These are plants and animals which do not fall within red-list categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain.

The following tables detail the Nationally Notable species that were recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
flowering plant	Box	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	1	1990	NR-excludes
	English Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus anglica</i>	1	2008	NR-excludes
	Large-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	1	1999	NS-excludes
	Water-soldier	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	1	1981	NR-excludes

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
NS-excludes	Nationally Scarce. Excludes Red Listed taxa	Nationally Scarce - Occurring in 16-100 hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria
NR-excludes	Nationally Rare. Excludes Red Listed taxa	Nationally Rare - Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.

### **WCA schedule 9 species (including non-native invasive plants)**

Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (amended 2010) lists species of plants and animals for which it is a specific offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild (plants) or release or allow to escape into the wild (animals). Many of these are invasive non-native plants and animals, but there are also a number of native animals on the list (e.g. Barn Owl) which cannot be released into the wild in England without a license from Natural England.

The following tables detail the WCA Schedule 9 species recorded in the search area.

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records	Dates	Designations
bird	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1	1997	MBB-WCA-S9

	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	1	1998	MBB-WCA-S9
bony fish (Actinopterygii)	Bitterling	<i>Rhodeus sericeus</i>	2	2009	MBB-WCA-S9
flowering plant	Canadian Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	7	1981-2012	MBB-WCA-S9
	Cotoneaster horizontalis agg.	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i> agg.	1	2005	MBB-WCA-S9
	Hollyberry Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	1	2003	MBB-WCA-S9
	Indian Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	4	1982-2010	MBB-WCA-S9
	Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	12	1981-2017	MBB-WCA-S9
	Japanese Rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	5	1990-2016	MBB-WCA-S9
	Montbretia	<i>Crocsmia pottsii</i> x <i>aurea</i> = <i>C. x crocosmiiflora</i>	3	2003-2010	MBB-WCA-S9
	Rhododendron ponticum	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	29	1981-2017	MBB-WCA-S9
	Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiasrum galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>argentatum</i>	1	2010	MBB-WCA-S9
terrestrial mammal	Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	1	1977	MBB-WCA-S9
	Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	4	2012-2017	MBB-WCA-S9

Desig. Code	Desig. Name	Designation Description
MBB-WCA-S9	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 9) (England and Wales) Order 2010	Species on Schedule 9 (part 2) as revised 2010. Under section 14 of the Act it is illegal to release into the wild any animal or allow to grow in the wild any plant which is not ordinarily resident in GB or which is a known threat and is listed on Schedule 9 of the Act.

## BAP priority habitats

In 2007 the Local Biodiversity Manager (responsible for the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan) undertook a review of the extent of UK BAP priority habitats in North Merseyside and produced GIS layers to show their extents. In most cases these inventories were derived from two main sources: the latest Phase 1 habitat surveys which were conducted for the four North Merseyside local authorities between 1996 and 2007; and an NVC survey of the Sefton Coast carried out between 2003 and 2004. A separate NVC survey of the Ribble estuary carried out in 2002 (which also included saltmarsh at the Alt) was also useful as were one or two other sources. Because of the diverse nature of habitat classifications, it was not always possible to produce inventories with a one-to-one correspondence with UK BAP priority habitats. The table below shows the BAP habitat inventories for North Merseyside and their correspondence with UK BAP priority habitats.

North Merseyside habitat inventory	Correspondence with UK BAP priority habitats
Lowland Acid Grassland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
Lowland Heathland	Lowland Heathland
Lowland Raised Bog	Lowland Raised Bog
Neutral Grassland	Incorporates the UK BAP habitat Lowland Meadows but also, in North Merseyside, includes a lot of amenity grassland, road verges etc.
Calcareous Grassland	Calcareous Grassland
Ponds	Ponds
Lakes	Eutrophic lakes
Reedbeds	Reedbeds
Hedgerows	Hedgerows
Saltmarsh	Coast Saltmarsh
Sand Dune	Coastal Sand Dune

All Woodland	It was not possible, from the available data, to produce separate inventories for different woodland types in North Merseyside, so this inventory incorporates elements of several UK BAP priority habitats such as Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland and Wood Pasture & Parkland.
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Note that the 'Ponds' BAP inventory was derived locally using water bodies less than two hectares in extent from Ordnance Survey data. The 'Lakes' BAP inventory is a nationally supplied inventory, but the lakes are only represented in this as points. Therefore any water body over two hectares in extent will only be represented on our habitat maps by a point and will not show the extent of the lake. However, ponds will be indicated by polygons showing their extent. Occasionally a large pond – though still less than two hectares in extent – will be represented in both the 'Lake' and 'Pond' inventories.

Habitat	Amount	Units
Hedgerows	22.05	kilometres
Calcareous Grassland	0.07	hectares
All Woodland	60.41	hectares
Neutral Grassland	43.29	hectares
Ponds	5.73	hectares
Ponds	147	count

The table above indicates the extent of each of the BAP habitat inventories (see previous table) occurring within your search area (see appendix 2 for maps).

## Detailed habitat mapping

Merseyside BioBank collates and maintains detailed habitat mapping – normally Phase 1 or NVC – for the North Merseyside area. This includes both historic data and the most up-to-date habitat survey data available. Here we report on the detailed habitat mapping we hold for your search area.

Ref: EN-CBA-Coastal		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region.		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Coastal Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information.		
CBA General features		
Gen1	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	0.59 ha

Ref: EN-CBA-Grassland		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Grassland Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information.		
CBA General features		
Gen3	Local Wildlife Site	7.8 ha
CBA Grassland		
Gr1	Grasslands	2.37 ha
Gr4	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	0.07 ha
Gr6	Lowland Meadow	26.4 ha

<b>Ref: EN-CBA-Mosaic</b>		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Mosaic Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information.		
CBA General features		
Gen3	Local Wildlife Site	46.77 ha

<b>Ref: EN-CBA-Wetland</b>		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Wetland Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information.		
CBA General features		
Gen3	Local Wildlife Site	0.49 ha
Gen4	Reedbeds	0.25 ha
CBA Wetland		
We7	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures	6.23 ha

<b>Ref: EN-CBA-Woodland</b>		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Woodland Core Biodiversity Areas. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information.		
CBA General features		
Gen3	Local Wildlife Site	10.04 ha
CBA Woodland		
Wo3	Lowland Mixed Broad-leaf Woodland	113.56 ha
Wo4	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	163.69 ha
Wo6	Lowland Wood-pasture and Parkland	7.03 ha
Wo8	Traditional Orchards	0.62 ha
Wo9	Wet Woodland	0.4 ha

<b>Ref: EN-LinearFeatures</b>		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Linear features. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information.		
Linear feature		
Lin3	Dismantled Railway	1.43 km
Lin4	Dry ditch	0.02 km
Lin5	Hedgerow	22.05 km
Lin6	Major road corridor	8.2 km
Lin7	River	10.01 km

<b>Ref: EN-SteppingStones</b>		
Source: Composite layer generated by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the Liverpool City Region		
Survey date: 01/01/2016		
Notes: LCR Ecological Network Stepping Stone habitats. See <a href="http://www.lcreconet.uk/">http://www.lcreconet.uk/</a> for further information.		

Stepping stone habitat		
SS1	Ponds	7.52 ha

Ref: Composite		
Woodland and scrub		
A1.1.1	Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural	2.39 ha
A2.2	Scrub - scattered	2 (count)
A3.1	Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees	1.19 ha 17 (count)
Open water		
G1	Standing water	0.45 ha 0.15 km
G2	Running water	0.32 ha
Miscellaneous		
J1.2	Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland	24.54 ha
J2.1	Intact hedge	0.68 km
J2.1.2	Intact hedge - species-poor	0.32 km
J2.2.2	Defunct hedge - species-poor	0.24 km

Habitat maps themselves are produced at the end of the report. You can cross-reference the figures in the tables below to the maps by means of the reference which appears on each map. A map with the reference 'Composite' is a special map made on-the-fly at the time of this report production by merging data from all available sources and using the most up-to-date mapping available at any given point in your search area.

## Designated Areas

There are a number of types of 'designated areas' in North Merseyside. These types are shown in the table below together with the total number of North Merseyside sites for each.

Type of area	No. of sites
Site of Special Scientific Interest	6
Special Protection Area (Natura 2000)	3
Marine Special Protection Area	1
Special Area of Conservation (Natura 2000)	1
RAMSAR (wetland of international importance)	3
National Nature Reserve	3
Local Nature Reserve	57
Knowsley Local Wildlife Site	23
Sefton Local Wildlife Site	55
St Helens Local Wildlife Site	121
Liverpool Local Wildlife Site (current)	28
Liverpool Local Wildlife Site (proposed)	30
Merseyside Ancient Woodland Inventory	11
RSPB/LWT Windfarm Alert Map	1
Red Squirrel Protection Area	1

The following table indicates the results of the intersection between the search area and designated areas detailed above (see appendix 2 for maps).

Name	Type
Knowsley and St.Helens Mosslands	Nature Improvement Area
Whittle Brook (SJ521902-SJ535896)	St Helens Local Wildlife Site
Dog Kennel Plantation	St Helens Local Wildlife Site
Booth's Wood	St Helens Local Wildlife Site
Mersey Valley Golf Course	St Helens Local Wildlife Site
Tunstalls Farm	St Helens Local Wildlife Site
Clock Face country park pond	St Helens Local Wildlife Site
Sutton Manor	St Helens Local Wildlife Site

Citations<sup>1</sup> for Local Wildlife Sites are supplied separately.

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<sup>1</sup> In Knowsley, some Local Wildlife Site citations do not include lists of species and habitats for which they are designated and where this is the case a separate list is supplied for the site. No Local Wildlife citations are available for Liverpool Local Wildlife Sites (current or potential). No citations for LNRs are available. Citations for national and internationally designated sites (SSSI, SPA etc) are publicly available.

## **Interpretation and caveats**

### ***Merseyside BioBank records included***

All relevant non-confidential records managed by Merseyside BioBank which intersect the search area are included in this report, except where excluded by one or more of the conditions described in the rest of this section.

### ***NBN Atlas records included***

All relevant records available to Merseyside BioBank from the NBN Atlas are included in this report, except where excluded by one or more of the conditions described in the rest of this section. NBN Atlas records are accessed live *via* web-services at the time of report generation.

Merseyside BioBank often has access to NBN records at higher resolution than the standard 'public' access. These records have been downloaded and used with the permission of the data providers, but are subject to normal NBN Atlas terms and conditions. You must not use them beyond the specific purposes for which this report was provided to you and you must adhere, at all times, to the NBN Atlas terms and conditions.

### ***Record location and dates***

If a record can only be located to a relatively low precision (e.g. 1 km or 2 km square), then it is possible that the unrecorded precise location of the animal or plant might have been outside of the search area. Sometimes the location name column can be useful in deciding whether or not this was likely to have been the case. In records from our own database, we have replaced all digits with the '#' character in the location field to people's privacy where addresses have been used as location names.

Records which are only available to us at less than 2 km square (tetrad) precision are excluded from the report. We report dates at the highest precision available to us. Records for which no date is available are excluded from the report.

### ***Sensitive taxa***

For some sensitive taxa, the precision of grid references presented here may have been reduced. We do this for:

- all records of Badger; and
- records of breeding Otter.

In addition, we do not report on 'negative records' for Badger or Otter.

### ***Absence of records and 'negative records'***

The absence of biological records for an area, or the presence of 'negative records', is not proof that taxa are not present.

### ***Duplicate records***

Although we do our very best to avoid reporting the same record more than once ('duplicate records') this is sometimes unavoidable for records that have entered the biological records network *via* more than one route. In particular, there may be some record duplication between records from Merseyside BioBank's database and records from the NBN Atlas datasets



**The Local Biodiversity  
Records Centre  
for North Merseyside**

Merseyside BioBank,  
Estate Barn, Court Hey Park  
Roby Road, Liverpool  
L16 3NA  
Tel: 0151 737 4150  
Info@MerseysideBiobank.org.uk

(though, of course, we do not report on NBN Atlas records which originate from Merseyside BioBank).

**Validity of records**

Whilst Merseyside BioBank continually strives to verify the records that we manage, we accept no responsibility for any errors subsequently discovered. Merseyside BioBank accepts no responsibility for errors in data derived from the NBN Atlas.

**Bird records**

Only bird records with a recorded status of proven, probable and possible breeding have been included in this data search. Bird records with other statuses are not included. The most recent bird records for North Merseyside included, e.g. those generated for the ongoing breeding and wintering atlas projects, since these data have yet to undergo verification by the County Bird Recorder. It is possible for you to contact the County Bird Recorder independently for his interpretation of the most recent data with respect to your search area. The contact details are:

Steve White  
stevewhite102@btinternet.com

Please note that if this is a commercial data request you will be invoiced by **Sefton Borough Council**, which is the hosting authority for Merseyside BioBank.

**Other Local Record Centres**

A part of your search area is not covered by this LRC (see grey areas on attached image). This part of your search area falls within the Cheshire region which is covered by Cheshire rECOrd whose contact details are shown below:

Lucy Boyett  
Enquiries Officer  
Lucy.boyett@rECOrd-LRC.co.uk

Cheshire rECOrd  
Chester Zoological Garden,  
Chester. CH2 1LH

Tel: 01244 383749

## **Appendix 1: Terms and conditions of use**

**Merseyside BioBank receives data from a variety of sources, from large organisations to amateur naturalists. With Merseyside BioBank operating as custodians, these individuals and groups, who provide their records free of charge, retain copyright on their data.**

**All data passed to a third party (users) by Merseyside BioBank are subject to these access terms and conditions. Non-adherence to these terms and conditions will be viewed as a breach of contract, which may result in legal redress being sought.**

1. Users agree that data released by Merseyside BioBank, in any format and on any media, will only be used for the purpose for which it was originally requested and for any time period originally agreed upon (See note 3 below).
2. Users agree that data released by Merseyside BioBank will not be added to any permanent database system (electronic or paper based) unless by written agreement with Merseyside BioBank.
3. Users understand that following the end of the agreed time period, or 12 months from the enquiry date, the received data must be deleted from any electronic system (See note 2 above). Use of the data beyond this period must be preceded by a further request to Merseyside BioBank.
4. Users agree that data retrieved from Merseyside BioBank will not be passed on to or communicated with third parties except as aggregated data within reports, or as anonymised data in the form of maps etc., which constitute a part of the agreed reason for the original enquiry.
5. Merseyside BioBank disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy of the information within its reports and accepts no liability for any result of using these data.
6. Any biological record is specific to the date of the recording and does not necessarily imply the continuance of the species at that site.
7. The lack of species and/or habitat information for a geographically defined area does not necessarily imply a low biodiversity value for that area. It may simply be unrecorded.
8. While the information from Merseyside BioBank in itself will remain free, Merseyside BioBank reserves the right to charge a reasonable fee to cover administration and a proportion of overheads as detailed in our charging policy.
9. A copy of any report, or other product, produced using the data from Merseyside BioBank would be gratefully received if provided without cost.
10. Merseyside BioBank must be acknowledged within any report, or other product produced, using data provided by Merseyside BioBank.



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## **Appendix 2: Maps**

The following page(s) include maps to illustrate some of the results of your data request. They should be viewed in the context of the results supplied in the main body of the report.

The Ordnance Survey mapping included in the maps provided by Merseyside BioBank under Sefton Council's licence from Ordnance Survey. These maps are provided to assist decision-makers in the effective and sustainable management of land, species and habitats. Ordnance Survey should be contacted directly if any of these maps are to be used in another document.































