



SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTE 39 SITES OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Unitary Development Plan for Wirral provides for the protection of sites which can be demonstrated to have special local importance for nature conservation. These sites are also known as Sites of Biological Importance.
- 1.2. This Supplementary Planning Guidance Note sets out the criteria that are proposed to be used in order to identify Sites of Biological Importance. It also lists those sites currently identified as meriting protection under Unitary Development Plan policies, summarising their local significance.
- 1.3. This Note should be read in conjunction with Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policy NC5 (The Protection of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation).

2. SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

- 2.1. Sites of Biological Importance are intended to include all good examples of all habitat types represented in Wirral which are not already Sites of Special Scientific Interest. They are selected solely upon ecological merit, although other factors such as geology, history and management may influence their overall value.

3. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- 3.1. The criteria used for selecting Sites of Biological Importance are set out below. These criteria have been prepared in consultation with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and are fully endorsed by the Nature Conservancy Council for England (English Nature).

Primary Attributes

- 3.2. Four primary attributes are used to select sites. Individual sites should normally possess more than one of these attributes. These attributes cannot be ranked in order of importance; all must be considered when evaluating a site's nature conservation status.
 - (i) Presence of a high quality example of at least one habitat type.

Sites meeting this criteria will be among the best local examples for the habitat under consideration. Scarce habitats (locally/nationally) have increased value. Habitats where natural processes are likely to lead to rapid loss of ecological interest are usually less valuable, except where the process of ecological change is itself of interest.

- (ii) Presence of a high diversity of the species to be expected in that habitat.

The number of species present is not alone a sufficient guide. A heathland, for example, will have less plant species than a woodland, but may still be a very good example of a heathland.

- (iii) Presence of good examples of a variety of habitats.

A varied site, providing for a range of species, is often of more value than a less diverse area.

- (iv) Presence of locally or nationally rare or uncommon species particularly those that are protected by law.

The known significance of a site for the shelter, breeding or foraging of a protected species is considered to merit selection in its own right

Priority Habitats

- 3.3. Within Wirral a number of "priority" habitats have been identified from the Wirral Habitat Survey. Priority habitats have special significance because of their rarity, rate of loss or in terms of maintaining local or sub-regional distinctiveness.

- 3.4. Priority habitats for Wirral include;

- ☐ semi-natural woodlands - often with high species diversity such woodlands are now rare in Wirral,
- ☐ lowland heath - nationally and internationally rare, Wirral contains good examples of a particular maritime type,
- ☐ coastal habitats such as sand dunes (fixed and mobile) slacks, calcareous grassland and other features of the sand dune system - now rare as much of the Wirral coast has been heavily altered,
- ☐ species rich unimproved/semi-improved grassland - extremely rare in Wirral
- ☐ fresh water and wetlands - vital to local wildlife, of national interest in terms of the density of ponds within north-west England and the scale of recent losses, and for protected species

- 3.5. The need to protect and sustain these local "priority habitats" is therefore also reflected within the list of sites selected as Sites of Biological Importance.

Other Considerations

3.6. Other considerations which may add to the special value of a site include;

- ☐ large size; bigger sites tend to support more animal species and are able to sustain those animals which require large territories
- ☐ potential for or existence of good management which is tending to increase and sustain the value of a site for wildlife
- ☐ key position as a link between other wildlife sites
- ☐ presence of geological and/or physiographical features
- ☐ educational value for demonstrating biological or other scientific features; safe accessibility is important
- ☐ scientific recorded history; sites with historical scientific records have enhanced value

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

4.1. A Schedule of Sites of Biological Importance identified within the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral is attached to this Note. Further information on the nature conservation status of these sites can be obtained from the Forward Planning Section of the local planning authority or from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Grebe House, Reaseheath, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DA (tel 0270 610 180).

SCHEDULE OF SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

NC6/1 Royal Liverpool Golf Course, Hoylake

Area of coastal dune grassland and dune slack including species in its only English station

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT1)
Habitat for protected species
Managed as part of private golf course
Green Belt and Coastal Zone

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/2 Grange Hill, West Kirby

Though degraded the area contains remnant areas of nationally rare lowland heath

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 14)
Reconfirmed by CWT in 1990 (CWT2)
Managed as open space by WBC
Urban Greenspace GR2/166
Also includes sites of local geological importance

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii)

NC6/3 Caldy Hill, Caldy

An extensive remnant area of nationally rare lowland heath including characteristic species and area of birch and oak woodland

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 8)
Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT6)
Managed as open space by WBC
Urban Greenspace GR2/201
Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/3
Also includes Scheduled Ancient Monument CH24/1
Contains sites of local geological importance

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/4 Stapledon Wood, Caldy

An extensive mixed age woodland plantation dominated by sycamore, beech and oak with ornithological interest.

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 8)

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT6)

Habitat for protected species

Managed as open space by WBC

Green Belt

Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/3

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)

NC6/5 Newton Common, West Kirby

Mixed deciduous woodland with pines and some patches of good ground flora.

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT6)

Designated as statutory common land

Managed as open space by WBC

Urban Greenspace GR2/186

Principal Criteria met by the site (i)

NC6/6 Caldy Golf Course, Caldy

A range of interesting habitats throughout the golf course including ponds, copses and neutral grassland of importance for a wide range of nationally rare species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 7)

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT4)

Habitat for protected species

Managed as part of private estate

Green Belt and Coastal Zone

Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/7 Caldy Hospital Grounds, Caldy

Area of mixed woodland supporting legally protected species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 9)

Reconfirmed 1992

Habitat for protected species
Managed as part of private estate
Conservation Area CH11 controls also apply

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/8 Irby Common, nr Irby

Former area of lowland heath now dominated by oak and birch but still incorporating damper areas

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT11)
Owned by NT managed as open space by WBC
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/9 Irby Quarry, nr Irby

Primarily a geological site but significant biologically because of the range of moss and lichen

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT11)
Managed by WBC as part of Royden Country Park TL11/2
Green Belt
Also site of local geological importance

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii)

NC6/10 Irby Pond, west of Limbo Lane

Good example of a pond showing all stages of aquatic succession containing species of considerable botanical interest

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 16)
Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT12)
Habitat for nationally rare species
Managed as part of agricultural holding.
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/11 Harrock Wood, Irby

Narrow, broadleaved woodland with open canopy of oak, sycamore and beech with rich ground flora

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT15)
Owned by NT managed as open space by WBC
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii)

NC6/12 Backford Road pond, Irby

Large, open, shallow pond with diverse aquatic vegetation regionally significant for nationally rare species

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT9)
Habitat for protected species
Managed as part of agricultural holding.
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (iv)

NC6/13 Royden Park, Frankby

An area of coniferous and mixed deciduous plantations, two meres (one showing succession to Willow Carr) and patches of acid grassland supporting a diversity of wildlife

Identified as SSSI in 1954. De-notified 1983
Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT8)
Habitat for protected species
Managed by WBC as part of Country Park TL11/2
Green Belt
Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/14 Robert's Wood, Thurstaston

Woodland area adjacent to Thurstaston Common SSSI supporting legally protected species

Reconfirmed in 1992
Habitat for protected species

Green Belt
Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/15 Wirral Way (Caldy to Thurstaston)

A variety of secondary damp and neutral grassland habitats and associated ponds and woodlands supporting nationally rare species

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT5 and 7)
Habitat for protected species
Managed by WBC as part of Country Park TL11/5
Green Belt and Coastal Zone
Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/16 Wirral Way (Heswall to Borough Boundary)

A variety of secondary damp and neutral grassland habitats of significant value to wildlife

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT5)
Managed by WBC as part of Country Park TL11/5
Green Belt and Coastal Zone
Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/17 Dungeon Pond, nr Thurstaston

Large open pond set in coarse neutral grassland with mixture of deep water with shallow gradation to marsh and good species diversity including one specie at the northern edge of its range

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT10)
Managed as part of agricultural holding
Green Belt and Coastal Zone
Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/18 The Dungeon, nr Thurstaston

Area of ancient deciduous valley woodland dominated by sessile oak, with rich ground flora and stream supporting a variety of invertebrates

Identified by CWT in 1993 (CWT59)

Habitat for protected species

Managed by WBC as part of Country Park TL11/5

Green Belt and Coastal Zone

Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Includes geological SSSI

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)

NC6/19 Piper's Lane, Heswall

Area of mixed scrub vegetation supporting legally protected species

Reconfirmed in 1992

Habitat for protected species

Managed as part of private estate

Green Belt

Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/20 Rear of Quarry Road East, Heswall

Area of mixed deciduous woodland and mixed scrub vegetation supporting legally protected species

Reconfirmed in 1992

Habitat for protected species

Managed as private rear garden areas

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/21 The Beacons, Heswall

Fragment of lowland heath with exposed sandstone outcrops, gorse scrub and acidic grassland

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 30)

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT21)

Managed as open space by WBC and as private gardens

Urban Greenspace GR2/209 and private rear gardens
Also includes site of local geological importance

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/22 Wittering Lane, Heswall

Area of mixed scrub and bracken supporting legally protected species

Reconfirmed in 1992
Habitat for protected species
Managed as part of agricultural holding
Green Belt and Coastal Zone

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/23 The Dales, Heswall

Area of meadow and scrub excluded from The Dales (heathland) SSSI but supporting legally protected species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 5)
Reconfirmed in 1992
Habitat for protected species
Managed by WBC as open space as part of LNR
Urban Greenspace GR2/208

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/24 Gayton Wood, Gayton

Deciduous woodland of pedunculate oak with rich ground flora supporting legally protected species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 13)
Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT20)
Habitat for protected species
Managed as part of private estate
Green Belt
Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)

NC6/25 Gayton Hall Wood, Gayton

Area of mixed deciduous woodland with good ground flora supporting legally protected species

Reconfirmed in 1992

Habitat for protected species

Managed as part of private estate

Green Belt

Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Conservation Area CH13 controls also apply

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/26 Backwood Hall Farm

Small agricultural woodland providing habitat for legally protected species

Reconfirmed in 1992

Habitat for protected species

Managed as part of agricultural holding

Green Belt

Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/27 Raby Ponds, south of Willow Lane

A representative series of five ponds botanically interesting for marsh species and those related to the later stages of aquatic succession and with value for ornithology

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT39)

Significant ornithological value

Managed for angling as part of an agricultural holding

Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/28 Benty Heath Lane Ponds, nr Raby

A series of ponds surrounded by mature oak trees and alder/willow carr important for marsh habitats, emergent vegetation and locally rare species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 2)

Reconfirmed by CWT in 1990 (CWT40)

Important for rare species
Managed for angling
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/29 Willaston Copse, nr Willaston

A mature mixed woodland dominated by oak and sycamore and supporting legally protected species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 35)
Reconfirmed in 1992
Habitat for protected species
Managed as part of agricultural holding
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/30 Barnston Dale, nr Barnston

Steep sided oak and beech woodland on the valley sides of Prenton Brook particularly rich in ground flora and supporting legally protected species

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT22)
Habitat for protected species
Green Belt
Conservation Area CH21 controls also apply

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/31 Murrayfield Hospital, Thingwall

Small area of rare calcareous grassland leading down to a semi-natural valley woodland on the banks of the Prenton Brook which supports a rich ground flora and legally protected species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 32)
Reconfirmed and extended by CWT in 1990 (CWT24)
Habitat for protected species
Managed as part of private hospital grounds
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/32 Manor Wood, Thornton Hough

Mixed deciduous woodland surrounding a series of marl pits now enlarged to form an ornamental lake noted for its heronry - the only one in Wirral

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 21)

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT26)

Managed as part of private estate

Green Belt

Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/4

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/33 Thornton Hough ponds, north of Thornton Manor

A representative series of old marl pits containing a wide range of plant and animal species including species of local distribution

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 33)

Reconfirmed by CWT in 1990 (CWT27)

Managed for angling

Green Belt

Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/4

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/34 Stanley Wood, west of Landican Lane

Mixed deciduous valley woodland on the banks of the Prenton Brook with dense shrub layer and ground flora rich in indicator species of ancient woodland

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT28)

Managed as private shooting range

Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/35 Rake Hey Covert pond, north of Brimstage

Pond exhibiting later stages of aquatic succession with a wide range of emergent and marsh vegetation including locally rare species

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT44)

Managed as part of agricultural holding

Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)

NC6/36 Gorse Covert and Nicholson's Plantation, Arrowe Park

Mature plantations of considerable diversity now showing natural regeneration, incorporating areas of rich ground flora and having significant ornithological value

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 1)

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT18)

Significant for nationally rare species

Managed by WBC as part of country park TL11/1

Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/37 Limbo Lane Pond, north of Parkway, Thingwall

Open, unshaded, deep pond shelving to marsh with significant plant and animal species diversity

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT16)

Managed as part of agricultural holding

Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)

NC6/38 Arrowe Brook Farm Ponds, Greasby

Group of three mainly unshaded ponds supporting rich marsh flora and nationally rare species

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT17)

Habitat for protected species

Managed as part of agricultural holding

Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/39 Greasby Copse and Ponds, Greasby

Broad leaved deciduous woodland dominated by oak, beech and sycamore with dense understorey particularly rich in spring flowers

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT13)

Managed as part of agricultural holding
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/40 Storeton Wood, Higher Bebington

Large mature oak and conifer woodland on high ground with considerable local importance for ornithology

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT45)
Considerable ornithological interest
Owned and managed by the Woodland Trust and Leverhulme Estates
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/41 Old Sewage Works, Clatterbridge

Colonised by a variety plants but most notable for the quantity and diversity of invertebrates

Identified by CWT in 1993 (CWT58)
Managed as local reserve by CWT
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii)

NC6/42 Willow Farm Ponds, Thornton Common Road

A series of ponds showing a range of wetland habitats.

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT46)
Managed as local reserve by Wirral Countryside Volunteers
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (iii)

NC6/43 Raby Mere

Includes one of Wirral's few large water bodies surrounded by semi-natural woodland with acidic flora and significant value for ornithology and nationally rare species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 28)

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT48)
Habitat for protected species
Managed by Leverhulme Estates
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/44 The Marfords, Brookhurst

One of the most floristically rich semi-natural woodlands in the Dibbinsdale complex outside the SSSI including indicator species for ancient woodland

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 31)
Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT49)
Managed as local reserve by WBC
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/45 Bromborough Golf Course Pond, Brookhurst

Large, open unshaded pond with clear water supporting a range of aquatic plants and animals including regionally rare species

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT47)
Habitat for regionally rare species
Managed as part of private golf course
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)

NC6/46 Hargrave House Farm Ponds, Brookhurst

A valuable series of ponds demonstrating a wide range of wetland vegetation and all stages of aquatic succession from open water to dry land together with a rare species rich area of neutral grassland

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT42)
Managed as part of agricultural holding
Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/47 Plymyard Dale, Brookhurst

Diverse mixed-age valley woodland, part of the Dibbinsdale complex, showing much regeneration and supporting a rich, continuous and diverse ground flora including indicator species for ancient woodland. Also of ornithological value

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 26)

Reconfirmed by CWT in 1990 (CWT50)

Habitat for rare species

Managed as open space by WBC and as private land by private owner

Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/48 Lowfields, Eastham

An extension to Plymyard Dale SBI (NC6/47) comprising a continuation of the Dibbinsdale complex of diverse mixed-age valley woodland supporting a rich and diverse ground flora and a botanically significant area of marshy grassland.

Identified by CWT in 1993 (CWT50 extension)

Managed as open space by WBC

Green Belt

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/49 Holm Hill, West Kirby

Area of mature garden shrubbery supporting legally protected species

Reconfirmed in 1992

Habitat for protected species

Managed as part of private estate

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/50 Eastham Woods and Long Plantation, Eastham

Mixed deciduous woodland occasionally rich in ground flora, associated grassland, coastal cliffs and gorse scrub of ornithological value supporting nationally rare species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 11)

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT53)

Habitat for protected species

Managed by WBC as part of Eastham Country Park TL11/4
Green Belt
Mersey Estuary SSSI adjacent

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/51 Old Hall Road Woods, Bromborough

Small area of deciduous woodland dominated by oak, beech and horse chestnut supporting nationally rare species

Identified in 1993
Habitat for protected species
Managed as part of private employment land holding

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/52 Woodslee Pond, Bromborough

Large flooded marl pit supporting a good range of wetland animals and submerged and floating vegetation, with coarse fish and a rich insect fauna

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT51)
Managed for angling
Urban Greenspace GR2/65

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii)

NC6/53 'New Ferry Butterfly Park', Alma Street, New Ferry

Colonised by a wide variety of plant species the site supports a wide variety of butterflies and is one of the best butterfly breeding areas in Wirral

Identified by CWT in 1993 (CWT57)
Managed by CWT as local reserve

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii)

NC6/54 New Ferry Shore

Large area of mixed coastal habitat including salt marsh, clay cliffs, reed beds and intertidal mudflats of regional importance for ornithology.

Identified by CWT in 1980 Altered in 1993 (CWT52)

Not actively managed
Coastal Zone

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/55 Burrell Road, Prenton

Area of scrub and grassland in former sandstone quarry supporting legally protected species

Reconfirmed in 1992
Habitat for protected species
Managed as private gardens
Design Guidelines Area HS3/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/56 Wirral Ladies Golf Course, Noctorum

Includes fine examples of relatively undisturbed and nationally rare lowland heath including locally characteristic heathland species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 36)
Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT29)
Supports nationally rare species
Managed as private golf course
Urban Greenspace GR2/27
Design Guidelines Area HS3/1

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/57 Bidston Hill

Exposed sandstone ridge with extensive mostly dry degraded lowland heath surrounded by mature mixed woodlands which are significant for their ornithological interest

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 3)
Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT25)
Considerable ornithological value and locally rare species
Managed by WBC as Country Park TL11/6
Proposed Green Belt
Area of Special Landscape Value LA2/1
Includes sites of local geological importance

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/58 New Brighton Foreshore

Intertidal rocky foreshore providing feeding area for internationally significant numbers of Turnstone and nationally important numbers of Redshank roosting in the adjacent SSSI

Identified by CWT in 1993 (CWT60)
Coastal Zone

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (iv)

NC6/59 Wallasey Golf Course and Leasowe Gun Site

Area of consolidated sand dunes showing areas of damp slacks, yellow dune, grey dune, dune grassland and dune scrub supporting typical sand dune species including locally and nationally rare species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 34)
Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT34 and 38)
Habitat for nationally rare species
Managed by WBC as Country Park TL11/3 and as private golf course
Green Belt and Coastal Zone

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/60 Old Birket, Bidston Golf Course, Leasowe

Abandoned meander of the River Birket with a good range of aquatic plants

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT36)
Habitat for rare local species
Managed by National Rivers Authority
Proposed Green Belt
Area liable to flooding

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)

NC6/61 Leasowe Pond, Bidston Golf Course, Leasowe

Open, unshaded pond rich in invertebrates and with high plant species diversity including locally and nationally rare species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 20)

Reconfirmed by CWT in 1990 (CWT35)
Habitat for nationally rare species
Managed as part of private golf course
Green Belt
Area liable to flooding

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)

NC6/62 Bidston Marsh, M53 Corridor

Wirral's most extensive wetland habitat valuable for its size, extent, diversity and ornithological importance including acid wetland and rare associated species

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 4)
Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT37)
habitat for regionally rare species
Managed by WBC as LNR (part only)
Proposed Green Belt
Area Requiring Landscape Renewal LA4/1 (part only)

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/63 Sandbrook Lane Pond, Upton

Open pond showing full succession of plant habitats from open water to dry land also containing species at the northern limits of their British distribution

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT23)
Managed as open space by WBC
Proposed Green Belt
Area for Transport Corridor Environmental Improvements

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/64 Paulsfield Drive Woodland, Moreton

Prominent mature woodland forming part of wooded corridor along Upton By Pass supporting nationally rare species

Identified in 1992
Habitat for protected species
Managed as part of former Scout Association Camp Site
Urban Greenspace GR2/145

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/65 Overchurch Park Woodland, Upton

Prominent mature woodland forming part of wooded corridor along Upton By Pass supporting nationally rare species

Identified in 1992

Habitat for protected species

Managed as open space by WBC

Urban Greenspace GR2/155

Also contains Scheduled Ancient Monument CH24/3

Principal Criteria met by the site (iv)

NC6/66 Leasowe Common, Leasowe Road

Linear series of coastal habitats including remnant dunes and slacks, saline grassland and reed beds with considerable botanical interest and ornithological value

Identified by MCC in 1983 (Site 19)

Identified by CWT in 1980 Reconfirmed in 1990 (CWT30)

Supports regionally rare species

Designated as statutory Common Land

Managed by WBC as part of Country Park TL11/3

Green Belt and Coastal Zone

Area liable to flooding

Adjacent to North Wirral Foreshore SSSI

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/67 Meols Field, Park Lane, Meols

Sandy coastal meadow dominated by sand sedge and showing uncommon species characteristic of unimproved grassland

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT31)

Part of agricultural holding

Green Belt

Area liable to flooding

Area Requiring Landscape Renewal LA4/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)

NC6/68 Pasture Farm Pond, south of Leasowe Common

Pond supporting a diverse range of significant plant and animal species also of ornithological value

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT33)

Habitat for protected species

Managed as part of agricultural holding

Green Belt

Area liable to flooding

Area Requiring Landscape Renewal LA4/2

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

NC6/69 Upton Bridge Wood, Upton

Deciduous woodland with dense shrub layer and rich ground flora on gently sloping and poorly drained land

Identified by CWT in 1990 (CWT19)

Managed as open space by WBC

Urban Greenspace GR2/151

Principal Criteria met by the site (i) (ii) (iv)