Bury Local Plan Topic Paper 7 Natural Environment























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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Natural Environment Topic Paper is one of a series that has been prepared as part of the process of evidence gathering to support Bury's emerging Local Plan. The full range of Topic Papers deal with the following:
 - 1 Housing
 - 2 Economy and Employment
 - 3 Town Centres and Main Town Centre Uses
 - 4 Health and Wellbeing
 - 5 Energy and Physical Infrastructure
 - 6 Flood Risk
 - 7 Natural Environment
 - 8 Open Land
 - 9 Built Environment
 - 10 Transport
 - 11 Community Facilities
- 1.2 The principal aim of the Topic Paper is to set out current key policies, plans and strategies relating to this topic area that will form the framework for the development of the Local Plan and to present a profile of the Borough that will highlight key issues, problems and challenges that the Local Plan should ultimately seek to deal with.
- 1.3 This will subsequently help to shape and influence the direction and focus of the Local Plan's planning policies, designations and site allocations.
- 1.4 It is intended that the Topic Papers will be 'living' documents that can, if necessary, be updated to reflect the most up-to-date circumstances. For example, some of the evidence contained within the Topic Papers has been drawn from evidence that has been developed to support the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). Any subsequent amendments to the GMSF and/or its supporting evidence, will be reflected in the evidence supporting Bury's Local Plan.

2 Key Policies, Plans and Strategies

- 2.1 One of the key early stages in the process is to review other policies, plans and strategies which are of relevance to this particular topic area and which will help to inform and influence the direction of the Local Plan. Clearly, there is a need for the Local Plan to be consistent with planning policy at different levels.
- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out Government Policy in respect of planning matters and this is supported by Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This sets out the broad planning framework within which development plans are produced.
- 2.3 Sub-regionally, the emerging Greater Manchester Spatial Framework will establish strategic policies and site allocations across Greater Manchester. This document will, once adopted, form part of Bury's development plan alongside the Local Plan.
- 2.4 There are also a range of other plans and strategies that, whilst not being policy, are considered to be of relevance to the Borough from natural environment perspective.

National Planning Policy

- 2.5 Chapter 15 of the NPPF relates to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and paragraph 170 states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
 - protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
 - recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
 - maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate; and
 - minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- 2.6 Paragraph 171 states that Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks

of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

2.7 Chapter 17 of the NPPF relates to facilitating the sustainable use of minerals and paragraph 203 states that it is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. Since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, best use needs to be made of them to secure their long-term conservation.

The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

- 2.8 Once adopted, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) will form an integral part of Bury's wider development plan. Consultation on the first draft GMSF ended in January 2017 and there are proposals to issue a second draft for consultation shortly.
- 2.9 One of the key aims of the GMSF is to deliver a net gain in natural environmental assets and an increase in the extent of key habitat resources, recognising that, if this is to be achieved then all new development will have to play its part, each delivering a net gain in biodiversity. This could involve the protection and improvement of existing habitats, the creation of new ones, and/or the strengthening of connections between them.

Other Plans and Strategies

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (DEFRA, 2011)

2.10 This strategy sets out the government's ambition to halt overall loss of England's biodiversity by 2020, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people

Conservation 21: Natural England's Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century (2016)

- 2.11 The government's ambition is for England to be a great place to live, with a healthy natural environment on land and at sea that benefits people and the economy. This strategy sets out Natural England's thinking about what we need to do differently and how we need to work with others, to better deliver this shared ambition.
- 2.12 The strategy's 3 guiding principles are to create resilient landscapes and seas, put people at the heart of the environment and grow natural capital.

Biodiversity offsetting: Information for local authorities (DEFRA 2012)

2.13 Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities that are designed to give biodiversity benefits to compensate for losses. Although this document is aimed at local planning authorities in the six pilot areas, it shares understanding of how best to compensate for biodiversity loss when it cannot first be avoided or mitigated.

European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing (Natural England, 2013)

2.14 This guidance explains the process and requirements that must be met to get a licence for activities that affect European Protected Species.

The National Character Area Profiles (2014)

2.15 These divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries.

North West River Basin Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2015)

2.16 This Plan sets out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment. A RBD covers an entire river system, including river, lake, groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies. The RBD RBMPs are designed to protect and improve the quality of our water environment. Good quality water is essential for wildlife, agriculture and business to thrive. And is one of the means for boosting regeneration (both structural and economic), recreation and tourism RBMPs must be reviewed and updated every 6 years. A consultation on the draft update to RBMPs ran from October 2014 to April 2015.

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (2009)

- 2.17 The UK Biodiversity Action Plan was first published in 1994 as a response to the obligations of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, signed by the UK at the Earth summit in Rio de Janerio in 1992
- 2.18 The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan plays a key part within the UK BAP process by focussing on local priorities and implementing national biodiversity targets.
- 2.19 Currently there are 13 action plans covering a range of habitats and species occurring in GM which require action to conserve them for the future. A further 5 action plans are in the process of being updated/created

Greater Manchester Local Geodiversity Action Plan (2009)

- 2.20 Local Geodiversity Action Plans (LGAPs) set out actions to conserve and enhance the geodiversity of a particular area they aim to:
 - identify, conserve and enhance the best sites that represent the geological history of an area in a scientific, educational, recreational and cultural setting,
 - promote geological sites and make geoconservation relevant to people,
 - provide a local geodiversity audit (an audit of sites and skills) and
 - influence local planning policy

Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan (2013)

2.21 The policies in this plan replaced the Minerals policies in Bury's 1997 Unitary Development Plan.

Bury Habitat Survey (1990 & 2001)

2.22 This survey categorised every parcel of land in the Borough into one of 155 habitat types. It was intended, through updates, to provide a record of habitat change in the Borough.

Bury Landscape Character Assessment (2008)

2.23 This assessment took the national landscape character profiles and provided a finer-grain assessment of the Borough's landscape character.

Bury Greenspace Audit and Strategy (2015)

2.24 This document includes an audit and assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities which was first carried out in Summer/Autumn 2012. It also assesses the long-term requirements in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility of the various types of open space, sport and recreation for future provision in meeting local need where appropriate, through establishing minimum standards to be achieved.

Bury Green Infrastructure Assessment (2010)

2.25 This work was carried out by consultants with the aim of producing a general boundary and

Bury Carbon Management Plan (2017 draft)

2.26 This document is the local equivalent of the Greater Manchester Climate Change and Low Emission Strategy (2016). It identifies a role for greenspace in ameliorating the effects of air pollution and climate change.

3 Local Profile

- 3.1 The Borough's natural environment is one of its key assets and a reason that people choose to live and invest here. From the wild moorland in the north to the extensive parks and public open spaces in the south, Bury's natural environment helps define the character of its settlements, provides habitats for other species and provides relief from air, noise and light pollution.
- 3.2 This section sets out a broad profile of the Borough's natural environment. It looks at the main influences and challenges to help identify the key issues that the Local Plan will need to address. The Topic Paper covers the following aspects of the natural environment:
 - Landscape, geology, minerals and soils
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
 - Green and blue Infrastructure;
 - Water Quality.

Landscape, Geology, Minerals and Soils

Landscape

- 3.3 Bury's landscape character is influenced by factors such as its underlying geology and geomorphology, settlement pattern, land use and management, biodiversity and industrial evolution, all of which combine to help create the environment we are familiar with today.
- 3.4 Natural England's National Landscape Character Assessment (2005, updated 2014) identified three broad landscape types covering the Borough. They are:
 - Southern Pennines
 - Manchester Pennine Fringe
 - Manchester Conurbation.
- 3.5 The landscape of the north of the Borough around Ramsbottom is characterised by the distinctive upland features of the South Pennines. The geology is predominately sandstone and millstone grit which is reflected in the building materials used historically in the

The Borough's landscape character is important and varies significantly between the north, central and southern areas

local area. To the west the villages of Affetside and Ainsworth are located on high ground between the towns of Bolton and Bury.

3.6 The centre of the Borough, categorised by Natural England as 'Pennine Fringe' is characterised by the valleys of the River Irwell and River Roch, which

supported the area's early industrial development. However, the main feature of this area is the urban development spreading from main roads.

- 3.7 The landscape in the south of the Borough, being nearer to Manchester City Centre, has been much modified. The Irwell Valley here includes large areas of post-industrial open space but its small tributary valleys include relic ancient woodland.
- 3.8 Bury's Landscape Character Assessment (2009) took the three national landscape character types and sub-divided them into fourteen sub-types as shown in Figure 1. The aim of such an assessment is not to attribute value to specific landscapes but to identify qualities for area protection, enhancement and restoration purposes.



Figure 1 - Bury Landscape Character Areas

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Source: Bury Council Landscape Practice (2009)

Geology

3.9 The geology of the Borough has had a significant impact on its topography, soil structure and vegetation. The main geology comprises Upper Carboniferous rocks (created 325 to 286 million years ago), which can be sub-divided into the

Namurian (formally Millstone Grit) series and the Westphalian (formally coal measures) series. The Namurian rocks comprise coarse-grained buff coloured sandstone and gritstones and form the high ground in the north of the Borough. In the south of the Borough younger Westphalian series of shales, siltstones and sandstones, which are generally softer and have been eroded, overlie these Namurian rocks. In the extreme south of the Borough younger Permo-Triassic Red sandstones and Marls overlie the Westphalian and Namurian.

- 3.10 Much of the Borough is covered in drift deposits both glacial and more recent, apart from in the extreme northern upland margins of the Borough. The glacial deposits comprise mostly cohesive glacial drift although there are extensive glacial sand and gravel deposits in the Pilsworth, Whitefield and Prestwich areas. Recent river terrace and alluvial deposits occur along the courses of the Rivers Irwell and Roch.
- 3.11 The most common soil type found within the Borough is slowly permeable, seasonally wet, acid, loamy and clayey soils. However, other soil types are also present, such as:
 - Very acid, loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface (Holcombe Moor);
 - Freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils (south eastern side of the Borough);
 - Naturally wet, very acid sandy and loamy soils (south Prestwich); and
 - Loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high ground water (adjacent to the River Roch).

Designated Sites – SSSIs and RIGS

3.12 The Borough has one geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Ash Clough, Radcliffe and one Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) at Gorses Quarry, Limefield.

Minerals extraction

3.13 The NPPF requires Minerals planning authorities to plan for a steady and

adequate supply of aggregates. The Councils of Greater Manchester adopted the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan in April 2013. It aims to safeguard and facilitate the supply of sand and gravel, stone, clay, coal and peat

A requirement to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates



Figure 2 - Minerals safeguarding areas referred to in Policy 8 of the GM Minerals Plan (2013)

- 3.14 In Bury, whilst coal, building stone and brick clay have in living memory been extensively mined, recently, only aggregates (crushed stone) and sand have been quarried and currently there is very little mineral extraction.
- 3.15 Policy 6 of the GM Minerals Plan covers unconventional gas resources, such as shale gas. In 2015 the government issued exploration licences that could result in applications for drilling. A plan of the areas to which the licences apply is included in the Transport and Physical Infrastructure topic paper.

Soils and Agricultural Land

3.16 Around a third of the Borough's land is farmed (see Figure 2). Whilst some arable, fruit and vegetable crops are or have been grown, livestock grazing is the most common use of the land. Most of the Borough is classified as a 'less favoured area' (disadvantaged)¹ for farming because of poor, infertile soils and

¹ See http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/uplands/land-classification.htm

steep slopes. Farming is considered to be less financially viable here than in other parts of the country.

3.17 The Borough's 'best and most versatile' soils are limited to Unsworth in the east of the Borough and a small area south of Radcliffe. (See Figure 3)



Figure 3 - Extract from Agricultural Land Classification map North West Region

Source: Natural England 2010

3.18 In the last 20-30 years significant areas of farmland have been turned over to equestrian uses, some areas to recreation uses (e.g. Pike Fold golf course) and some to quarrying and landfill (Pilsworth). There have also been smaller losses to garden extensions and abandonments. These trends may well continue but given Britain's current dependence on food imports, it is conceivable that demand for land for farming in the Borough will increase in the long term.



Figure 4 - Farmed and grazed land

Source: Bury Council, from aerial photography (2013)

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- 3.19 The Borough has a good range of semi-natural habitats such as blanket bog, heathland, ancient woodland, wetlands and unimproved grassland. It also has many man-made habitats such as ponds, lodges and canals that are the result of past industrial development or historic land management practices. Some of them have been retained within reclaimed public open spaces.
- 3.20 Comprehensive data on biodiversity, i.e. detailed and country-wide, does not exist. Similarly in Bury, some areas and species are better surveyed than others. The Borough is fortunate in having complete Phase 1 habitat surveys from 1991 and 2001 and a partial survey from 2011. It also has a good number

of amateur naturalists who have contributed species records to the GM Records Centre. These indicate that since 1991 there has been:

- An increase in broad-leaved plantation of approximately 200ha, primarily from the efforts of the Red Rose Forest Partnership and mostly occurring in the 1990's.
- An increase in semi-natural scrub and woodland at the cost of more open habitats such as acid grassland and heath owing to neglect of former agricultural and industrial land.
- An overall increase in the number of ponds as a result of planning gain and pro-active habitat creation but a reduction in the number of large water bodies as result of development, natural succession and drainage.
- A gradual increase in wet grassland characterised by Juncus spp as a result of lack of maintenance of drainage systems on agricultural land and recreation sites.

Woodland

- 3.21 The Borough has approximately 93 hectares of ancient woodland² which is mostly located in steep sided valleys in Ramsbottom, Whitefield and Prestwich.
- 3.22 Total woodland cover in the Borough was 3.8% in 1991, 5.8% in 2001³ and 7.6% in 2012, compared with the national average of 12% and the European average of over 30% (Forestry Commission 2010).

Species

- 3.23 In terms of species, local trends seem to reflect national patterns. A number of highly mobile species such as speckled wood butterfly banded demoiselle and emperor dragonfly have colonised the Borough in the last 15-20 years, mostly likely as a result of the increase in average temperature. Other species have colonised or increased in numbers because of improvements in habitat quality, such as the return of the otter on the Irwell.
- 3.24 A number of pest species, such as mink, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam have increased.
- 3.25 Declining species are less easy to define but farmland specialists such as lapwing and skylark appear now to be less common in the Borough than during the 1990s, as does brown hare.

Designated Sites

3.26 The Borough has the following site designations of relevance to biodiversity:

² Land which has had continuous cover since 1600AD

³ Source: Bury MBC: 2001 Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 3.27 Site of Special Scientific Interest at West Pennine Moors (awaiting confirmation by August 2017), which is partly within the Borough.
- 3.28 6 Local Nature Reserves, at Philips Park, Chesham, Hollins Vale, Redisher Woods, the Kirklees Valley and Chapelfield
- 3.29 50 local 'Sites of Biological Importance' (SBIs). These are listed in the Appendix.
- 3.30 SBIs are surveyed and designated on behalf of the Council by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit. Table 1 identifies the number and area of SBIs in the Borough.

Table 1 - Summary of Bury's Sites of Biological Importance, Source: Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (2016)

	1984	2014	2015	Net change 2014-15 by number	Net change 2014- 15 by %
Total number	27	50	50	-	-
Total area	691.3	925.7	922.6	-3.1	-0.3
Number of Grade A SBIs	9	19	19	-	-
Area of Grade A SBI	554.4	763.3	760.1	-3.2	-0.4
Number of Grade B SBIs	10	20	20	-	-
Area of Grade B SBI	65	118.1	118.2	+0.1	+0.1
Number of Grade C	8	11	11	-	-
Area of Grade C	71.9	44.3	44.3	-	-



Figure 5 - Distribution of SBIs in the Borough, Source: Bury Council 2016

- 3.31 There are no sites with European designations⁴ in the Borough. However, the Council has a responsibility to consider the impacts of its strategies, plans and projects on European sites in adjacent districts.
- 3.32 The closest protected site is the Rochdale Canal (located 4km to the south east)⁵ which is protected in Rochdale and Oldham. Other more distant sites are the South Pennines SAC⁶ (13km), the Peak District SPA ⁷ (17km) and Manchester Mosses SAC⁸ (10-16km).
- 3.33 A Habitat Regulation Assessment was undertaken for the Publication Core Strategy (July 2013). This Assessment concluded that the aspiration to reopen the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal does bring a remote chance of affecting the Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation. However, it concluded that, providing mitigation plans, policies and strategies are adopted and implemented appropriately through the development management process, development within the identified area could proceed without harm being caused to the special interest of the Rochdale Canal.

Figure 6 - Distance from Borough boundary to nearest Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation



⁴ European sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

 ⁵ Designated because the canal supports a protected species (floating water-plantain – *Luronium natans*)
 ⁶ Designated because the area supports habitats of value such as European dry heaths, blanket bogs, old sessile oak woods.

⁷ Designated because the area supports protected species (short eared owls (*Asio flammeus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*).

⁸ Designated because the area contains raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration.

Protected Species

3.34 Bury has a number of species protected from harm under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and the Habitats Regulations 2010. They include bats, badgers, great crested newts, kingfisher, little ringed plover, otters and water vole. Bats are widespread and great crested newts are associated with pond clusters in a central belt of the Borough.

The Borough has a varied range of geological and ecological assets

Wildlife Corridors/Ecological Networks

3.35 Sites of importance for wildlife are of greater value if they are connected. This is because if they are, territories can be extended or because migration or repopulation can occur. The identification of wildlife corridors, encompassing open space to join sites of wildlife value are therefore a common planning tool. Bury's corridors, identified following the 1990 Phase 1 Habitat Survey and refined for the 1997 UDP, mostly follow water courses. They include the Irwell Valley, a corridor of sub-regional significance.

Priority Habitats and Species

3.36 The UK 1994 Biodiversity Action Plan produced a list of habitats and species of conservation priority because of their rarity or rate of decline⁹. A number are present in the Borough but not necessarily protected by planning designations. Much acid grassland and urban habitat mosaic (cleared/derelict sites) would fall into this category.

Ecological Enhancement Areas

3.37 'Biodiversity opportunity areas' or 'ecological enhancement areas' are locations where an opportunity exists for improvements that will improve the functioning of ecological networks/wildlife corridors. They could be beneficiaries of 'biodiversity offsetting', where it is agreed that a development can mitigate for biodiversity loss off-site. In Bury, opportunities were identified for the Core Strategy for seven areas around the Borough as shown in the table below. It is intended to review these opportunities for the production of the Local Plan.

⁹ Habitat types of principle importance in England (Section 41, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006)

Ecological Enhancement Area	Broad ecological aims	Possible area grouping names
Holcombe and Hawkshaw	Restoration of upland habitats including blanket bog, upland hay meadow, acid grassland and upland heath.	Holcombe Moor
Upper Irwell Valley	Broad leaved woodland and rivers	The Irwell Valley
Gorses Quarry and Chesham Wood	Broadleaved woodland and lowland heath	Chesham and Limefield
Elton and Coggra Fold	Pond networks and great crested newt habitat, farmland bird and brown hare.	Radcliffe, Bury and East Unsworth
Unsworth Moss	Pond networks and great crested newt habitat.	Radcliffe, Bury and East Unsworth
Harper Fold	Pond networks and great crested newt habitat.	Radcliffe, Bury and East Unsworth
Lower Irwell Valley	Broad leaved woodland, lowland grassland and wetland habitats and rivers.	The Irwell Valley

 Table 2 - Currently identified potential Ecological Enhancement Areas

Green Infrastructure

3.38 National Planning Guidance defines Green Infrastructure as a network of multifunctional greenspace which delivers a wide range of benefits. Its individual components include parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, street trees, allotments, private gardens, waterbodies and green roofs.



Figure 9: Extract from GMSF Green Infrastructure Network Plan

- 3.39 Green Infrastructure benefits biodiversity (in providing habitats), human health (in providing opportunities for relaxation and exercise away from polluted air) and climate change (in sequestering carbon dioxide).
- 3.40 Sometimes Green Infrastructure is considered alongside Blue Infrastructure, which is land required to reduce flood risk or provide improve the quality of waterbodies and watercourses.
- 3.41 As part of its preparation, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework identified a GI network. Figure 9 shows the part of the network affecting Bury.
- 3.42 The Council intends to commission consultants to identify a Green Infrastructure Network for the Bury Local Plan. Following the Greater Manchester network it is expected to be largely centred on the river valleys of the Irwell and the Roch and their tributaries. The work will review the existing

boundaries for River Valleys, West Pennine Moors and wildlife corridors shown on the UDP Proposals Map under Policies OL5/1 and OL7/2 to see whether they are fit for purpose and can be rolled forward to form the new Green Infrastructure network. Further information on the origin of these policies is provided within the Open Land topic paper.

3.43 Evidence from consultants TEP in 2010 on green infrastructure for Greater Manchester and for Bury indicates that these boundaries do closely relate to the wider network although this must be robustly tested. For development control purposes, these boundaries have already been used to seek green infrastructure improvements as part of planning applications.

Water bodies

3.44 The EU Water Framework Directive applies to surface water and groundwater and requires member states to protect, enhance and restore water bodies to 'good' status. The North West Region River Basin Management A requirement to protect, enhance and restore water bodies

Plan is the over-arching source of information and measures to meet the Water Framework Directive. DEFRA encourages action on a river catchment basis. A catchment management plan for the River Irwell is expected to be published by the Catchment Partnership in April 2018. Bury's watercourses are heavily modified so actual 'good' ecological status is unlikely to be achieved.

3.45 Development that has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts on water quality is required to submit a detailed assessment as part of an environmental statement.

4 Summary of Key Issues

4.1 The various Topic Papers sitting behind the Local Plan are available on the Council's web site at www.bury.gov.uk/localplan. These have drawn together a profile of the Borough which has, in turn, highlighted a number of Key Issues for the Local Plan to consider. The Key Issues for this topic paper are as follows:

Key Issues for the Natural Environment:

- The Borough's landscape character is important and varies significantly between the north, central and southern areas.
- A requirement to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates.
- The Borough has a varied range of geological and ecological assets.
- A requirement to protect, enhance and restore water bodies.

APPENDIX

 Table 3 - List of Sites of Biological Importance in the Borough

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit

SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN BURY: 2015 REVIEW

Site Name	Grid ref	Grade
Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal (East)	SD764068 - SD793096	A
Bradley Fold	SD756086	С
Hawkshaw Brook	SD759146	А
Hawkshaw & Boardmans Farm	SD756163	А
Shore Top Reservoir	SD766063	В
Wetlands & Meadows near Coggra Fold	SD765085	A
Ponds off Cockey Moor Road	SD767104	В
Wood at Bottoms Hall	SD764140	В
Wetland around Spenleach Lane	SD766156	А
Redisher Woods & Holcombe Brook	SD767162	А
Holcombe Moor	SD770178	А
Ainsworth Lodge	SD770093	В
Starling Road Reservoir	SD773098	С

Cockey Moor Wood Pasture & Marsh	SD772109	В
Rhodes Farm Sewage Works	SD785039	А
Ringley Woods (East)	SD785045	А
Reservoirs at Chapelfield	SD789062	С
Wetland near Radcliffe	SD787078	С
Marl Pits at Black Lane	SD781084	А
Withins Reservoir	SD784087	В
Spen Moor Ponds	SD783094	В
Elton Reservoir	SD788095	А
Barracks Lodge	SD784103	А
Cyrus Ainsworth's Nurseries & Parker's Lodges	SD782110	В
Grassland near Brandlesholme Old Hall Farm	SD785128	В
Kirklees Brook	SD782130	А
Broadhey Wood & Woodhey	SD788151	А
Dick Field Clough	SD785173	В
Carr Barn Wood	SD789176	С
Philips Park & North Wood	SD799038	А
Sailor's Brow & Spring Water Park	SD798067	С
Swan Lodge	SD796085	В
Elton Goyt	SD790086	В
Lower Hinds	SD794096	А
Daisyfield	SD791098	В
Flushes at Springside	SD791136	В
Gollinrod Wood	SD798153	A
Nuttall Farm Pasture	SD793160	В

Crow Lumb Wood	SD791161	С
Prestwich Clough	SD807034	А
Townside Pond	SD805103	В
Parr Brook	SD815074	С
Hollins Vale	SD818085	В
Chesham Woods	SD815123	С
Gorses Quarry	SD811131	В
Baldingstone	SD812144	В
Heaton Park Reservoir (West)	SD825050	А
Hollins Plantation	SD820080	С
Pilsworth	SD830084	В
Smethurst & Elbut Woods (West)	SD837115	С