

## Housing and Employment Land Allocation DPD

### Site SCUH-10 Land south of Ferry Road

#### Note on status of the Local Wildlife Site to the north of SCUH-10

14<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Proposed as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) within the North Lincolnshire Local Plan to which the landowner objected.

The Local Plan Inspector decided that it should not be shown as an LNR because there was no prospect of a management agreement with the landowner. For LNRs to be designated a management agreement with the landowner is required.

At the Local Plan Inquiry there was no dispute over the wildlife value of the site, which was well-established due to an English Nature Survey.

Since the Local Plan's adoption site has been surveyed in 2007, with the agreement of the landowner- refer to Appendix 1. Following the survey it was considered that the site qualified as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). The procedure used for selecting LWS sites was been agreed by the council's Highways and Planning Cabinet Member on 18 January 2008 (refer to Appendix 2) and is in accordance with DEFRA guidance and the Great Lincolnshire Nature Conservation Partnership namely: - .

DEFRA 2006 Local sites: Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management

Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership 2013 Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire 3rd edition April 2013

The site was subsequently designated a Local Wildlife Site following consideration by the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (now the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership) on 09 December 2008.

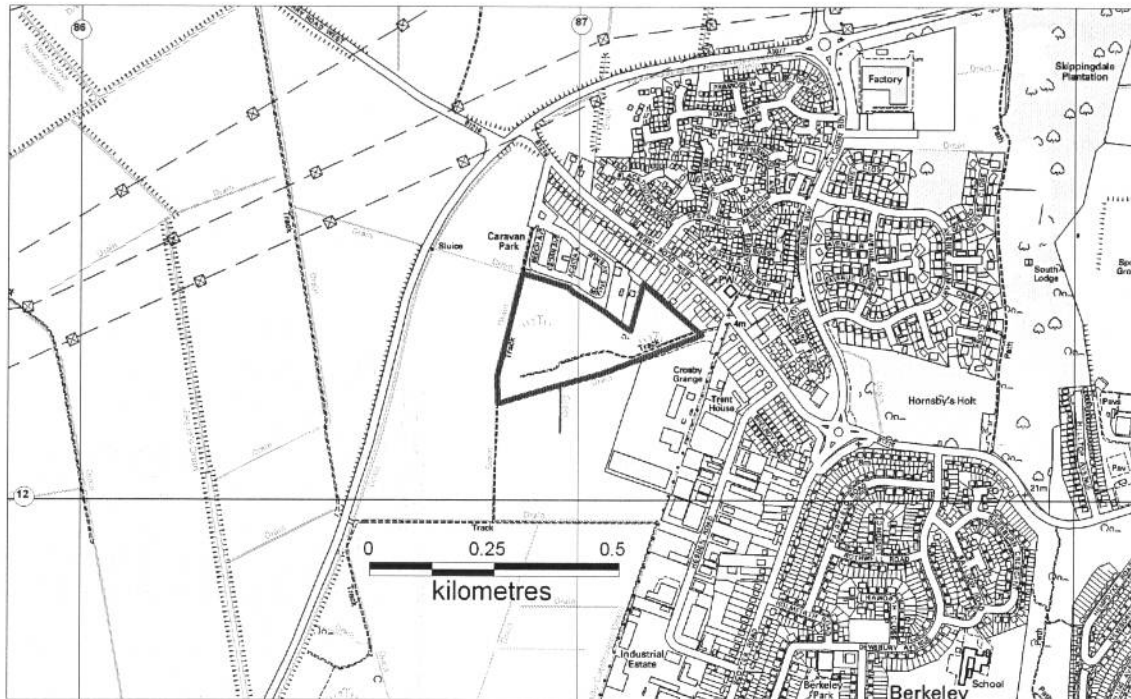
The site is also identified as open access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. It is identified independently from the Council by Natural England. The land qualified under the heathland category. Identification does not imply open access but identifies areas where open access would be sought by Natural England.

The Council's Environment Team would OBJECT to any housing development on this site due to:

- Loss of open access land
- Loss of Local Wildlife Site
- Loss of Priority Habitat - Lowland dry acid grassland
- Loss of rare invertebrates, including the beetle *Bromius obscurus*: a Red Data Book Category I species, considered in danger of extinction in Great Britain. This site is believed to be the only extant site for this beetle in Britain (Charlie Barnes, pers. comm.)

## Appendix 1 Survey Results

### Land Adjacent to Johnson's Transport



OS copyright No. AL100016739, Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. LN9 5HF

**Grid Ref:** SE870123

**Date:** 20 Sept 2007

**Area:** 5.54ha

**Recorder:** J Fraser

**Habitats: Main:** Woodland, Scrub-scattered, Scrub-dense, Grassland-acid

**Habitat: Additional:** Grassland-damp

**Additional features:** Varied sward height, Anthills, Bare ground, Seasonally wet/damp areas, Inappropriate management-none

This important site on the western edge of Scunthorpe is gradually being engulfed by development. Of primary significance is a moderately-sized patch of good acid grassland, surrounded by larger areas of coarse grassland, scrub and unremarkable woodland. Some wetland habitat is also present.

The acid grassland is dominated by sand sedge, common bent, sheep's-fescue and sheep's sorrel. There are also large populations of harebell, field mouse-ear, common stork's-bill, cat's-ear and smooth hawk's-beard. Amongst the scarcer species are heath rush and heather on the edge of a damp depression. Also present are wood sage, heath groundsel, garden asparagus, common bird's-foot-trefoil and lady's bedstraw. The most extensive area of damp habitat occurs on the western side of the site, where crack willow is present, plus amphibious bistort, great willowherb, angelica, water mint and water figwort. Wooded areas (primarily in the eastern third of the site) include much silver birch, as well as pedunculate oak, sycamore, poplar, ash and several species of willow.

Heavy public use has probably helped to maintain much of the remaining acid grassland, but it also explains the presence of supermarket trolleys, other discarded items, and evidence of anti-social behaviour. It is likely that acid grassland was much more extensive here 20 or 30 years ago, probably covering all but the dampest and most wooded areas.

## Appendix 2

19 (18) **LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES** – The Service Director Highways and Planning submitted a report seeking adoption of the Lincolnshire Local Wildlife Sites criteria that were published in 2006, and approval to assess existing and potential Local Wildlife Sites through the Lincolnshire Wildlife Sites Panel.

On 16 October 2003, the Environment and Transportation Cabinet Member gave approval for the formation of a Local Wildlife Sites panel to select suitable Local Wildlife Sites, using appropriate criteria (minute 16 refers). The associated report at the time also recommended that the draft Defra and Wildlife Trusts guidelines should be followed.

Through the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) partnership, organisations had formed a review group to devise suitable criteria for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites. Staff from the council's Environment Team contributed significantly to the development of the criteria, which were also subject to significant consultation.

The Lincolnshire BAP Steering Group had now formally adopted the criteria, outlined in the document "Local Wildlife Sites - Guidelines for their Identification and Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire)". Ecological survey work had begun on existing and potential Local Wildlife sites. A Local Wildlife Sites panel had formed to select sites by comparing survey results against the adopted criteria. The Lincolnshire Local Wildlife Sites Panel should consider information on sites in North Lincolnshire in preparation for the Local Development framework, and to support Development Control decisions.

Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites would be the subject of the proposed new National Indicator - PI 197. This indicator would measure the proportion of local sites where active conservation management was being achieved. In order to demonstrate good performance, the council would need to demonstrate that it had selected appropriate sites in accordance with Defra guidance. It would also need to demonstrate that conservation management was being carried out on these sites in accordance with professional advice, management plans, land-based grant schemes or biodiversity action plans.

**Resolved** – (a) That North Lincolnshire Council formally adopt "Local Wildlife Sites-Guidelines for their Identification and Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire)", (b) that council staff contribute to the running of the Lincolnshire Local Wildlife Sites Panel, and (c) that the council follow recommendations of the Wildlife Sites Panel on the selection or deselection of sites in accordance with DEFRA guidance.

