

APPENDIX 10.8

HAYSTACK LODGE LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

BASELINE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

1.0 Introduction – General Description

Grassland and Scrub

- 1.1 Haystack Lodge is south of the eastern part of the Upper Estuary, due south of the Power Station Lagoons and the eastern extremities of Astmoor Saltmarsh and Wigg Island (**JNCC Habitat Survey Map 6, & Figure 9**). It is on the south side of the Manchester Ship Canal and bounded by Warrington Road in the south. There is a sewage works on the western side of the site and a cement works in the east.
- 1.2 This site covers 5.03 hectares and consists of a mound of earth covered by planted copses of semi-mature trees and shrubs surrounded by grassland that had been mown in June, prior to the survey.
- 1.3 At the western end of the site is scrub which includes Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). There is a fence along the boundary with the sewage works.
- 1.4 The grassland by Warrington Road contains an abundance of Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) (**Table 1**). There is a large patch of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) (W24 community) between the semi-mature Ash and Sycamore trees, and the sewage works.
- 1.5 Alongside the Ship Canal, between the path that runs parallel to the Ship Canal and the canal itself, is a five metres wide strip of dense tall-herb vegetation. This consists of a mosaic of Bramble, Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), Garden Angelica, Hemlock Water Dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), Field Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), Goat's-beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*) and scattered woody species including Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Ash and Hawthorn.
- 1.6 There is a small concrete section that has been colonised by a small quantity of Sea Club-rush (*Scirpus maritimus*). Further east along the edge of the Ship Canal is an area of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) (W25 community).
- 1.7 Between the path parallel to the Ship Canal and the patches of scrub is a gentle slope that is colonised by grassland. This area supported approximately 150 Southern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) spikes in 2002. There is an extension to the colony of Southern Marsh Orchids further towards the centre of the site of approximately 200 flowering spikes.

Woodland Copses

- 1.8 The stands of woodland (**Figure 9**) are planted very densely and have a closed canopy that has suppressed the very sparse field layer. However these woody areas are good bird-breeding habitats.

- 1.9 The mixture of deciduous and coniferous species in the copses includes abundant Ash with frequent Sycamore, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and Hawthorn. Woody species with a localised distribution include Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Scot's Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), poplar species, Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*).
- 1.10 The absence of a dominant woody species increases the diversity of the woodland copses and also their densities as each species develops at a different rate to form closed a closed canopy and shrub layer.
- 1.11 As mentioned the field layer is very poorly developed. Constant species include Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and Tufted Hair-grass. There is a more open area of Ash woodland towards the derelict house and caravans. The ground flora here includes Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*), Common Nettle, Bramble and Tufted Hair-grass.

Tall-herb Vegetation

- 1.12 The narrower area to the east of the site, between the cement works and the house, has remained undisturbed for a number of years. There is only scrub encroachment towards the far eastern end where there is a small stand of Elder bushes and some trees. The tall-herb vegetation in this area is a dense mosaic of Bramble, Great Willowherb, Gypsywort, Common Nettle, Hemlock Water Dropwort, Rosebay Willowherb and grassland (MG1 community).
- 1.13 The glades that have been created amongst the trees are rich in small herb species such as Knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Water Pepper (*Polygonum hydropiper*), Dove's Foot Crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*).

Fauna

- 1.14 Anthills are very abundant, especially in the sandy soil close to the Ship Canal amongst the short grassland close to the water.

2.0 Previous Records

- 2.1 Previous botanical records include marsh orchids (*Dactylorhiza* spp.) and Pyramidal Orchid. The nationally scarce Marsh Sow-thistle (*Sonchus palustris*) has been recorded but this has not been recently confirmed. It is believed that this record is an error.
- 2.2 Fauna recorded include nine species of butterfly including skippers and Gatekeeper plus notable moths, namely Poplar Hawkmoth and Ruby Tiger. Terrestrial and flying invertebrates have been well recorded with 15 local species detected.

3.0 Evaluation of Haystack Lodge

- 3.1 Haystack Lodge has local (borough) importance for its botanical and invertebrate interests. It has been designated as a Local Wildlife Site.
- 3.2 The close proximity of the site to the Upper Mersey Estuary, particularly Wigg Island Local Nature Reserve, gives the site enhanced importance as does its urban location.

TABLE 1. THE PLANT SPECIES COMPOSITION OF GRASSLAND AND ASSOCIATED VEGETATION OF HAYSTACK LODGE LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

Map: south-east

Grid square: 540835, 545835

Survey date: 12/06/02

Vegetation cover = 50% planted scrub

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	Cover
Woody species			
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	O	<1%
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	O	<1%
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	O	<1%
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	O	<1%
Monocotyledon species			
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	VL	<1%
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	VLF	2%
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	VL	<1%
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome	VL	<1%
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	VA	25%
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome	VL	<1%
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogstail	LF	5%
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	LF	5%
<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>	Southern Marsh Orchid	VL	<1%
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	VLA	2%
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue	VA/VLD*	10%
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue	VLA	<1%
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Creeping Fescue	F*	8%
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	VLF	2%
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	VL	<1%
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	LF	1%
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	LF	2%
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush	VL	<1%
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	LF	<1%
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough-stalked Meadow-Grass	LF	1%
<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	Sea Cub-rush	VL	<1%
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	Squirreltail Fescue	VL	<1%
Dicotyledon species			
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	VL	<1%
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	LF	<1%
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	VL	<1%
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	VLF	<1%
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckoo-flower	VL	<1%
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	VLF	<1%
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	VLF	<1%
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	VLF	2%
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	VLF	5%
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	LF	3%
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	R	<1%
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Beaked Hawk's-beard	R	<1%

Continued

TABLE 1 CONTINUED

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	Cover
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	VL	<1%
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	VA/LD	5%
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Marsh Willowherb	VL	<1%
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	LF	<1%
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	LA	3%
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	VL	<1%
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	VL	<1%
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	VL	<1%
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	LF	2%
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear	VL	<1%
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	VLA	2%
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit	VL	<1%
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil	LF	1%
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gipsywort	VL	<1%
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	VLF	2%
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water Dropwort	VL	<1%
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	LF	<1%
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	LF	<1%
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	LV	<1%
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redshank	VLA	<1%
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	VLF	2%
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	VL	<1%
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	VLD/	2%
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane	LF	<1%
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	LF	<1%
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	LF	<1%
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	VLA/LD	10%
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	LF	<1%
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	VL	<1%
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock	VL	<1%
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	LF	<1%
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	LF	<1%
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	VL	<1%
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	LF	<1%
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	VLF	<1%
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	VLF	<1%
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	LA	2%
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	O	<1%
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	O	<1%
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	O	<1%
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O	<1%
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	Scentsless Mayweed	O	<1%
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	VL	<1%
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	VLF/A	5%
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	LF	2%
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	LF	2%
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	LF	2%

Continued

TABLE 1 CONTINUED

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	Cover
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	LA	2%
Plant species in scrub patches			
Woody species			
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	VL	<1%
<i>Acer psuedoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	LF	5%
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	VL	<1%
<i>Alnus cordata</i>	Italian Alder	VLF	5%
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	LF	10%
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	LF	10%
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	LF	5%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	LF	5%
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	LA	15%
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	O	2%
<i>Populus</i> sp.	Poplar species	VL	2%
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	Cherry species	VL	1%
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate Oak	VL	1%
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	VL	3%
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	VL	2%
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	VL	3%
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	VLF	5%
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	VL	5%
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	Swedish Whitebeam	VL	<1%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	VL	<1%
Monocotyledon species			
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	VLF	3%
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	LF	5%
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue	VLF	2%
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	LF	2%
Dicotyledon species			
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Scaly Male Fern	VL	<1%
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	VLA	10%
<i>Heracleum spondylium</i>	Hogweed	VLF	5%
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	Yellow Loosestrife	LF	2%
<i>Mosses</i>		VA*	15%
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane	VL	<1%
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	VL	<1%
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	VL	<1%
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	VLA	5%
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	VLF	2%

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TABLE 1 CONTINUED**Species included in original species list (not recorded in present survey)**

<i>Larix decidua</i>	Larch
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy Birch
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Spear leaved Orache
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	Pale Persicaria
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's Wort
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy
<i>Sonchus palustris</i>	Marsh Sow-thistle
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous sedge
<i>Festuca pratense</i>	Meadow Fescue
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Winter-cress
<i>Rorippa palustris</i>	Marsh Yellow-cress
<i>Cardamine amara</i>	Large Bitter-cress
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centuary

KEY: D=dominant, COD=co-dominant, A=abundant, F=frequent, O=occasional, L=local/locally, R=rare, V=very, * = constant species.