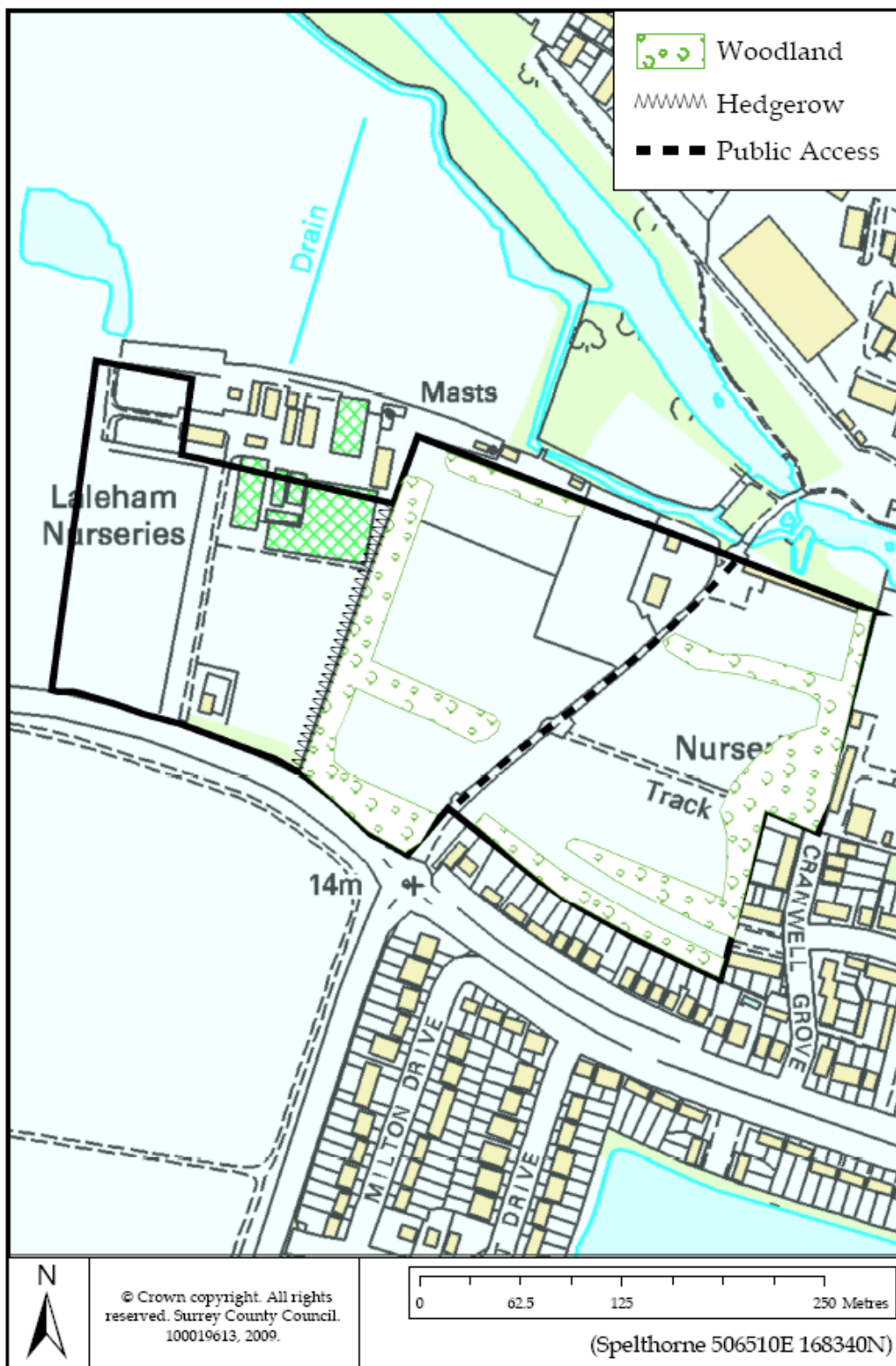


Preferred Area F: Home Farm Quarry Extension, Shepperton



Home Farm Quarry Extension, Laleham

Summary

The site comprises former agricultural/nursery land, which is used for film set purposes in association with Shepperton Studios to the north. Restoration should be to agriculture in association with the adjoining land, given its high classification. However, its current use and separate ownership from the adjoining farmland, make a film set use with enhancements more probable, and would be acceptable if the land is restored to a state capable of supporting an agricultural use.

Landscape Character Area	Thames Floodplain
Agricultural Grade	Grade 2.
Flood Risk	Yes
Nature Conservation Designation	None
Birdstrike	Within Heathrow Airport Safeguarding Area
Fill/No Fill	Inert infill
Phasing	Not Applicable

Public Access

There are no public rights of way across, or in close proximity to the site.

Recreation Potential

Adjoining the River Ash, there is scope for this site to contribute to the creation of the River Ash Walk. Additionally, it could provide an access link to this Walk across the land to Laleham Road.

Long Term Management

Either film set or agricultural usage should ensure its viable long-term management.

Biodiversity Contribution

On an agricultural option, the site can contribute to the National Broad Habitats of Arable & Horticulture and Boundary & Linear Features, together with Surrey's Farmland Habitat Action Plan. Additionally, given the site's proximity to the River Ash, there is scope for wetland habitat creation along the margins of the watercourse, or in association with flood alleviation.

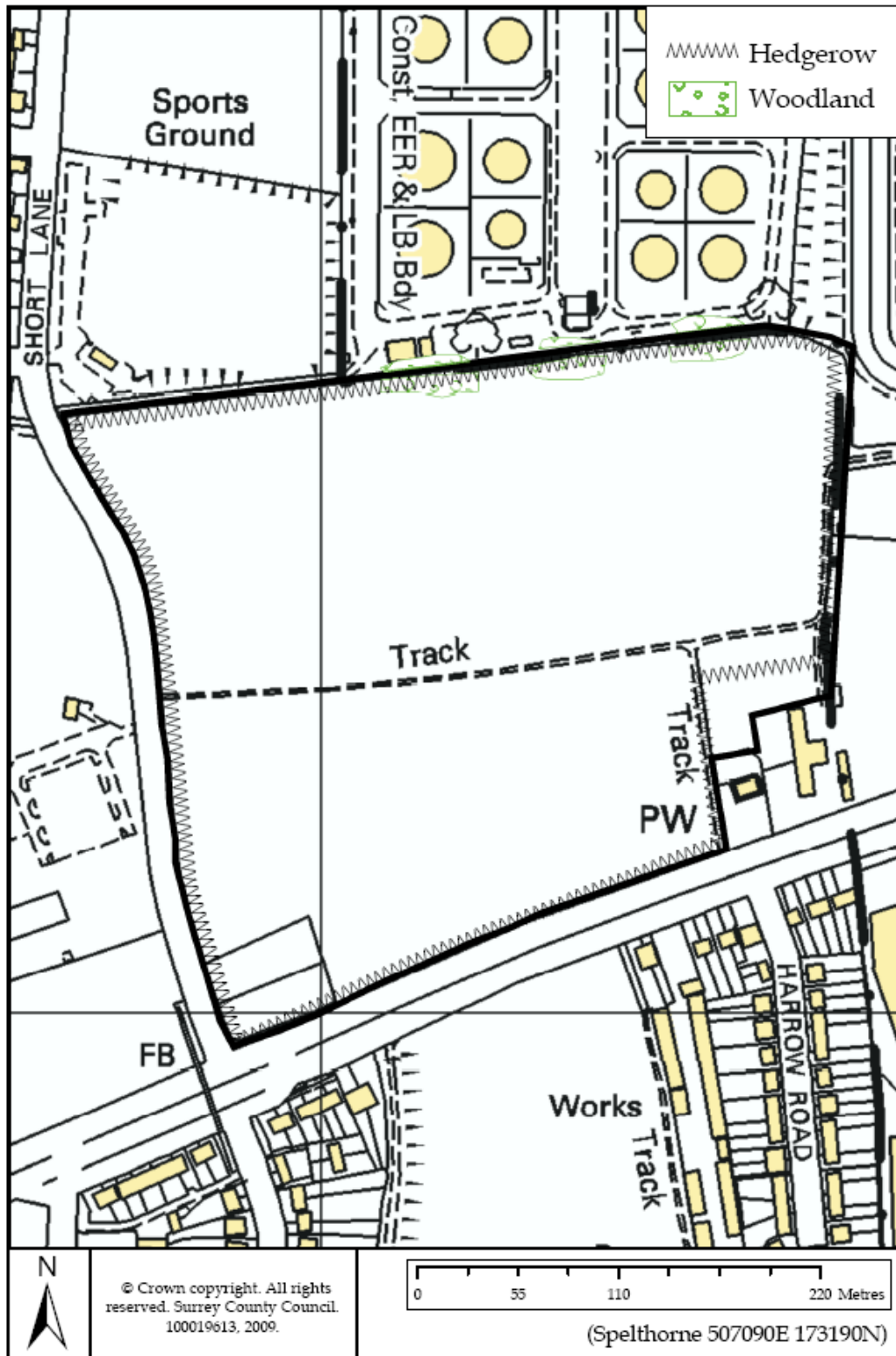
Enhancements

Strong peripheral planting along the south and eastern boundaries would help screen the adjoining residential properties, reinforcing the existing natural regeneration, and should be retained after working for habitat and landscape reasons. Equally the western boundary is currently a strong cypress *leylandii* hedge, which whilst providing effective screening, does not provide the best landscape or ecological fit. If the site were restored to agriculture, this should be removed and replaced by a hedgerow, if the film set option is pursued, then the belt should be reinforced with a woodland planting strip, replicating the historic feature which was there.

There is scope to enhance the northern boundary of the site, as part of the River Ash habitat corridor, and a wider area could be considered for local flood alleviation. If an agricultural option is pursued, then provision of margins, headlands and beetle banks around the periphery of the site in accordance with the Farming Habitat Action Plan could be made. Laleham Farm to the south west, which also farms Home Farm itself, is an award winning holding for its environmental works.

Opportunities exist for interpretation of River Ash corridor and film studios.

Preferred Area G: Homers Farm, Bedfont



Homers Farm, Bedfont

Summary

A small isolated area of high grade agricultural land, in viable arable use. Site worked remotely and material processed through Hengrove Farm. Site restored to agricultural use, involving infilling with inert waste materials.

Landscape Character Area	Thames floodplain
Agricultural Grade	Grade 1
Flood Risk	None
Nature Conservation Designation	No Designation
Birdstrike	Within Heathrow Airport Safeguarding Area
Fill/No Fill	Inert infill
Phasing	Not Applicable

Public Access

There are no public rights of way on, or in the vicinity of the site. Road cartilage runs along the southern and western boundaries.

Recreation Potential

If agricultural restoration were not pursued, then there may be opportunities for playing field provision in association with the adjoining sports ground.

Long Term Management

Continued agricultural usage should ensure the site's viable long-term management.

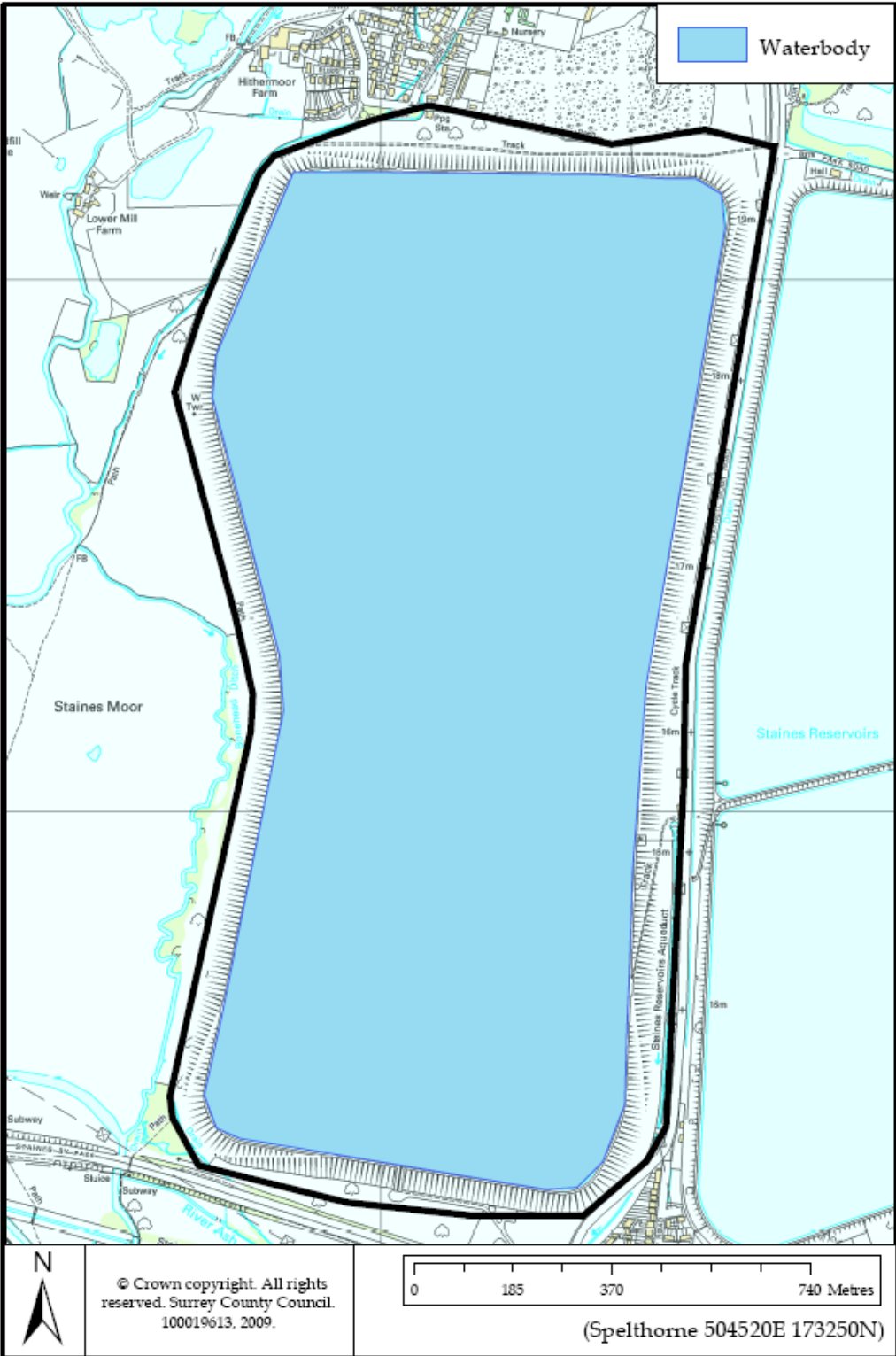
Biodiversity Contribution

The site can contribute to the National Priority Habitat - Cereal Margins, and Broad Habitat of Arable & Horticulture; together with Surrey's Farmland Habitat Action Plan.

Enhancements

Provision of margins, headlands and beetlebanks around the periphery of the site in accordance with the Habitat Action Plans. There are no existing hedgerows or tree cover. Consideration of these could be examined, but need to be balanced against birdstrike considerations given the proximity of Heathrow.

Preferred Area H: King George VI Reservoir, Stanwell



King George VI Reservoir, Stanwell

Summary

Operational reservoir, carrying international nature conservation designation. Site will be worked wet and mineral processed through Hithermoor or other nearby plant site. Restoration will be operational reservoir as is.

Landscape Character Area	Thames Floodplain
Agricultural Grade	Not applicable.
Flood Risk	No
Nature Conservation Designation	SSSI/SPA/RAMSAR
Birdstrike	Within Heathrow Airport Safeguarding Area
Public Access	No public access - operational reservoir
Fill/No Fill	No Fill

Recreation Potential

Any activity, such as watersports/angling, would have to be compatible with SPA and operational considerations. No demand for such use of the site has been identified or requested.

Long Term Management

Continued use as an operational reservoir, in association with SPA obligations, should ensure its viable long-term management. Given its international nature conservation designation, a management plan is essential, irrespective of whether the site were to be worked for mineral.

Biodiversity Contribution

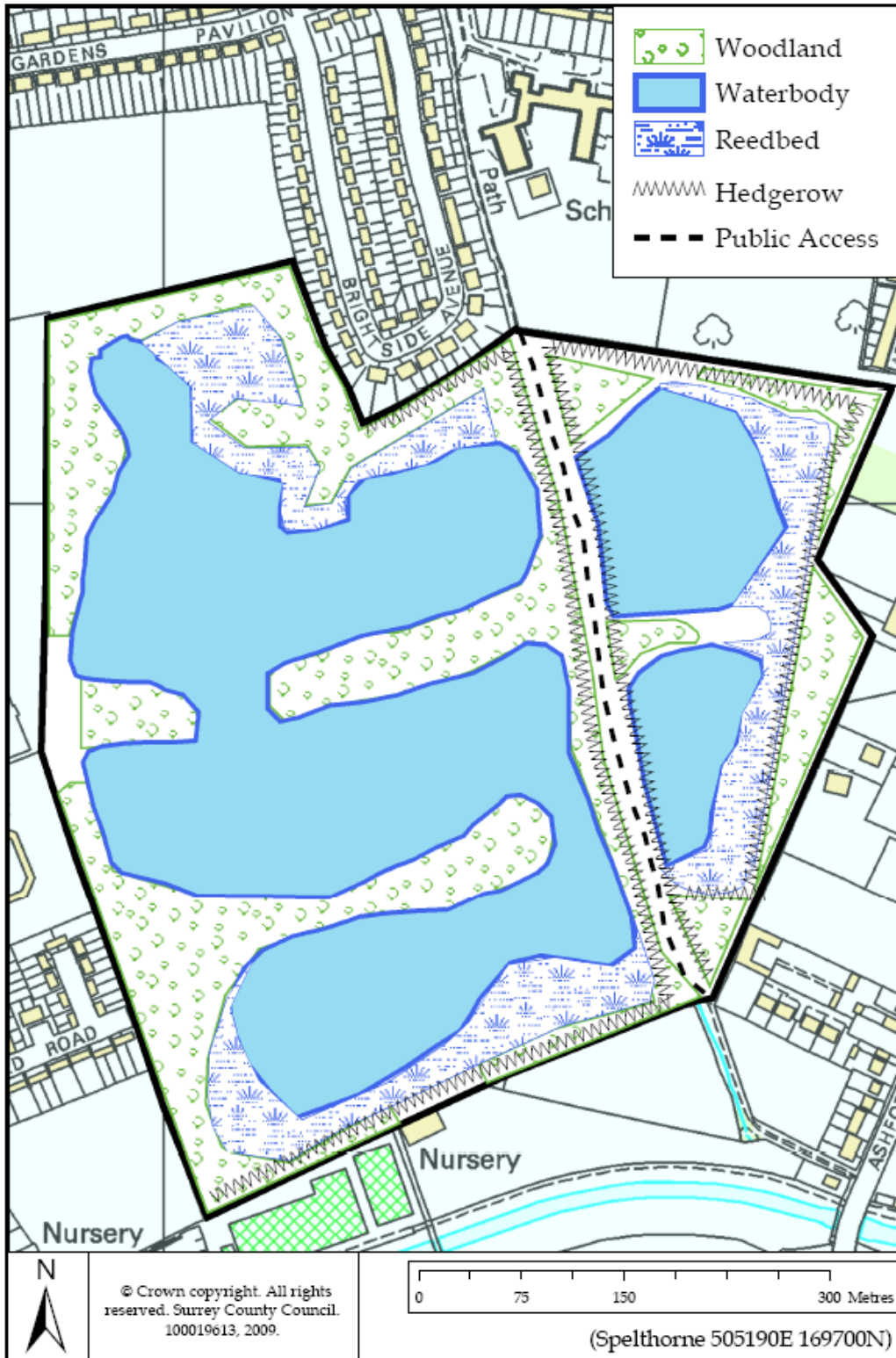
The site contributes to the National Priority Habitat – Mesotrophic Standing Waters and Broad Habitat of Open Standing Waters, together with Surrey’s Open Standing Water Habitat Action Plan.

Enhancements

Because of its operational requirements, opportunities for enhancements are limited. The stark visual appearance of the reservoir embankments is something often highlighted, but whilst these cannot be softened by planting directly on to the banks for engineering stability reasons, there may be scope for basal planting on a stand off distance in front of the embankments.

Thames Water also own land to the south, involving the line of the reservoir infall channel where scope may exist to secure visual and biodiversity enhancements.

Preferred Area J: Manor Farm, Laleham



Manor Farm, Laleham

Summary

The site is an isolated area of former agricultural grassland, essentially used for horse grazing, with the northern area also extensively used for unauthorized informal recreation by local residents. The site is substantially surrounded by residential properties. Restoration would be to a nature conservation end use, comprising a mix of waterbodies, reedbed and woodland

Landscape Character Area

Thames Floodplain

Agricultural Grade

Grade 2 South / Grade 3

North

Flood Risk

Yes

Nature Conservation Designation

None

Birdstrike

Within Heathrow Airport
Safeguarding Area

Phasing

Yes

Fill/No Fill

Low level restoration involving no import of fill material. If a feasible and acceptable method of importation could be found, then an alternative restoration option could be considered.

Public Access

Public Footpath (No 30) runs north south across eastern part of the site, joining Public Footpath (No 29) at its northern end, which runs eastwards to Ashford Road.

Recreation Potential

Surrounded by housing, and with a high level of public trespass and usage of the site already, the site has very high recreational potential. The site provides the opportunity to meet both open space and public access provision. However, the overriding no fill requirement necessitating a wet restoration, means the design to reduce birdstrike risk obviates against public open space usage (high potential for waterfowl feeding, as well as health and safety issues), as well as suitability for water sports usage. Any formal recreational use of the site is likely to encounter the same access highway difficulties as lorry movements for mineral extraction.

Long Term Management

There will need to be a Management Plan. This will be particularly important in a birdstrike context. Consideration of whether the Local Authority (Spelthorne) or a Wildlife Body would take on the management of the site.

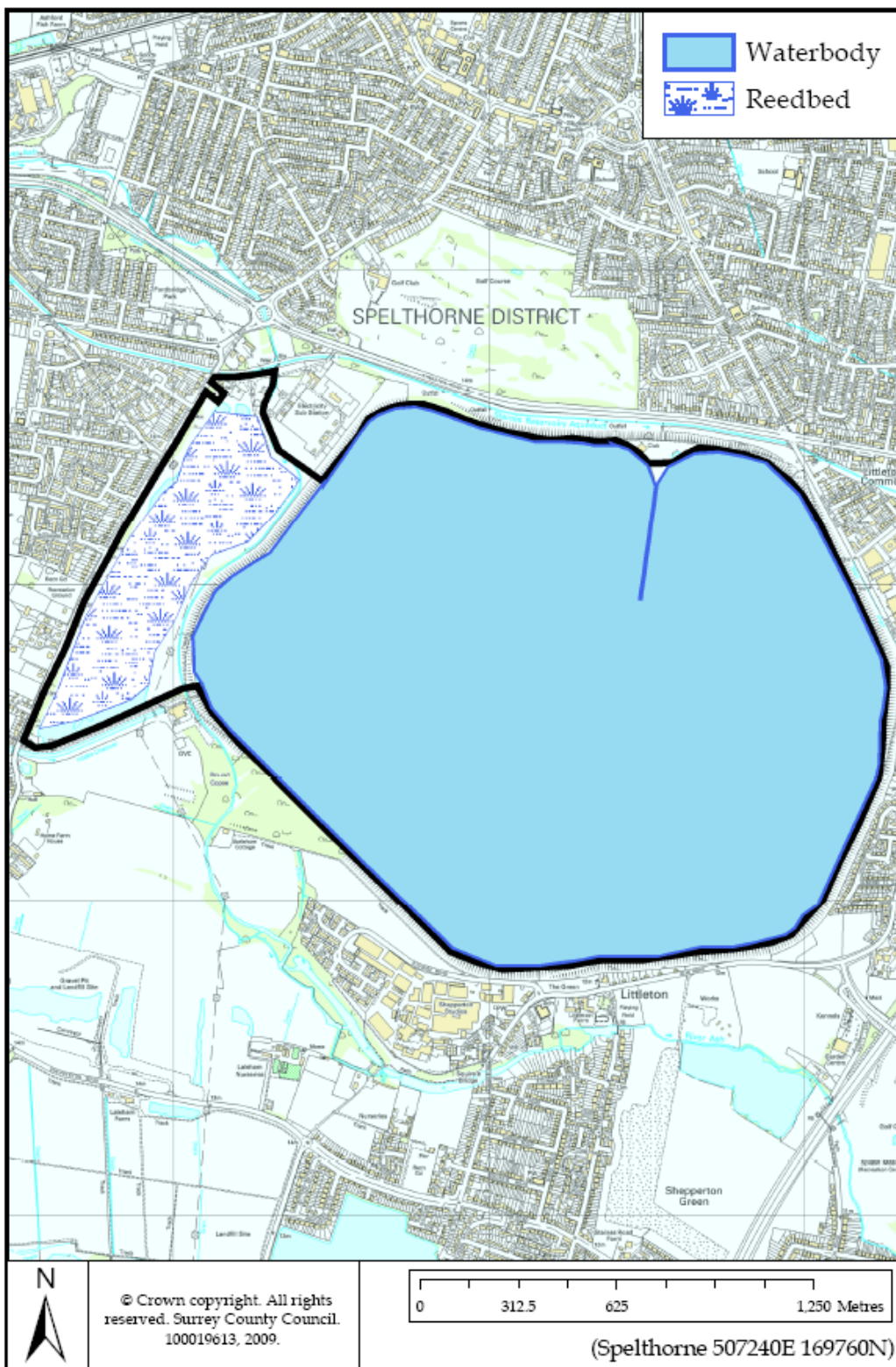
Biodiversity Contribution

The site can contribute to the National Broad habitats of Standing Open Waters & Canals, Reedbed, and Broadleaved, Mixed & Yew Woodland, together with Surrey's Open Standing Water & Reedbed, Woodland Habitat Action Plans.

Enhancements

Thames Water intake Channel to Queen Mary reservoir provides opportunity for both habitat and access (to Thames Path) corridor link. However, this must be balanced against operational security considerations of the Water Company. Equally habitat linkages to both proposed nature conservation restorations at Penton Hook and land west of Queen Mary Reservoir. (Could secure Thames path to River Ash Walk link). Opportunities for interpretation of nature conservation interest of the site. The central footpath could be upgraded to cycleway status.

Preferred Area K: Queen Mary Reservoir, Sunbury



Queen Mary Reservoir, Sunbury

Summary

Operational Reservoir, already subject to mineral extraction by dredger, with mineral processed through plant on adjoining land to the west. Proposal is for removal and working of baffle footprint. Restoration will be operational reservoir as is.

Landscape Character Area	Thames Floodplain
Agricultural Grade	Not applicable
Flood Risk	No
Nature Conservation Designation	SNCI
Birdstrike	Within Heathrow Airport Safeguarding Area
Public Access	No public access operational reservoir
Fill/No Fill	No Fill
Phasing	Not applicable

Recreation Potential

The reservoir is already used for watersport (wind based) activity. Opportunity exists however to help deliver the River Ash Walk, along the western edge of the reservoir.

Long Term Management

Continued use as an operational reservoir should ensure its viable long-term management.

Biodiversity Contribution

The site contributes to the National Priority Habitat – Mesotrophic Standing Waters and Broad Habitat of Open Standing Waters, together with Surrey’s Open Standing Water Habitat Action Plan.

Enhancements

Because of it’s operational requirements, opportunities for enhancements are limited. Could leave a refuge with removal of baffle, but could have birdstrike implications. Might also act as a feature for watersports. The stark visual appearance of the reservoir embankments is something often highlighted, but whilst these cannot be softened by planting directly for engineering stability reasons, there may be scope for basal planting on a stand off distance in front of the embankments. Material will be processed through the existing plant to the west of the reservoir. This area, together with the wider silt lagoons is being restored to a reedbed nature conservation end use through the ROMP system, integrated with the proposal to work the reservoir baffle.

Watersplash Farm, Halliford

Summary

An area of very high quality agricultural land, farmed remotely under an arable regime, divided by the line of the River Ash. The Watersplash Farm complex itself is now used for other non farming uses. Restoration should be back to agriculture with a wildlife and access corridor along the River Ash, and a woodland block or possibly reedbed established on the silt lagoon area.

Landscape Character Area Agricultural Grade

Thames Floodplain
Grade 1 predominantly
north of River Ash is grade 2.

Flood Risk

Yes

Nature Conservation Designation

SNCI corridor along River Ash

Birdstrike

Within Heathrow Airport

Fill/No Fill

Safeguarding Area

Phasing

Inert infill

Yes

Public Access

Public Footpath (No 53) doglegs over the western part of the site.

Recreation Potential

Given the operational agricultural usage, other than the River Ash corridor, recreation potential is limited. The creation of a link along the River Ash from the Millennium Park at Gaston Bridge to Fordbridge Road, will help deliver the wider River Ash Walk route. It might be that permanently diverting Public Footpath 53 along this line might be preferable from both a farming and walking perspective.

Long Term Management

Continued agricultural usage should ensure the site's viable long-term management, contract farmed from a remote location. A Management Plan will be required for the River Ash corridor, and woodland/reedbed area.

Biodiversity Contribution

The site can contribute to the National Priority Habitat – Cereal Margins, and Broad habitat of Arable & Horticulture, Broadleaved, Mixed & Yew Woodland and Rivers & Streams, together with Surrey's Farmland, Woodland and Wetland Habitat Action Plans.

Enhancements

Some advanced screen planting, in terms of strengthening hedgerow has been undertaken, but needs further reinforcing in places linked with screen bunding. River Ash corridor across middle of site, will require a stand off zone to protect it, and should be subject to enhancement consideration, in association with aspirations of realising River Ash walk/footpath. This should link into the Millennium Park, Gaston Bridge to the north of the site.

Opportunities for interpretation of nature conservation/river access along corridor, and farming practice. Provision of margins, headlands and beetlebanks around periphery of the site, in accordance with the Habitat Action Plans.