



Fylde Bird Club

LANCASHIRE

Chairman: Mr.L.G.Blacow

**Secretary: Mr.P.Ellis
18 Staining Rise
Staining
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY3 0BU**

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1998

FROM THE CHAIR

By now you should have seen a copy of our 1997 Bird report. I am sure you will agree it's our best to date. To maintain this standard we need more of you to contribute records to the report. This couldn't be easier, just bring your records to our monthly meetings.

You can also contribute to other important surveys, Mike and Pauline McGough are conducting distribution surveys of Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Skylark and would welcome reports of all these species.

The British Trust for Ornithology are asking for reports of all Lapwing and Golden Plover flocks exceeding 100, both these species are still regular visitors to our area so please bring your records along. The survey ends in March next year.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find copies of proposed development sites within Fylde borough. If you have any information about these areas please pass it on as soon as possible.

Why are we asking for all these records? After all, it makes even more work for ourselves. Well we need information about our local birds and their habitats if we are to comment on or oppose any threats to them. Please help, we don't mind the extra work but we do need your help. Many thanks.

L.G.B.

RECENT REPORTS

July

The weather was a continuation of June, being unsettled though warmer. Winds were light and mostly southwesterly, with moderate rainfall.

On the 4th a Great Crested Grebe was on the Ribble at Preston. During the middle of the month good numbers were seen off South Shore with 67 on the 11th, 82 on the 12th and 751 from early am until noon on the 18th. There were 27 Mute Swans on the Ribble early in the month and a Peregrine was back at Lane Ends on the 10th.

Return wader passage started to pick up and a Whimbrel was seen at the Mere on the 3rd, with one at Lane Ends on 10th. On the 9th there were 34 Common Sandpipers at Shard Bridge and seven at Skipool. 102 Golden Plover were noted at Thurnham on the 10th. On the 22nd 650 Black-tailed Godwits were at Fairhaven, rising to 1500 by the 31st. A Green Sandpiper flew over the Mere on the 25th whilst 5 Greenshank were at the Naze the same day and on the 31st. Also on this date 8 Common Sandpipers were in the Ribble channel, and 1 Whimbrel and 138 Turnstone were at Lytham.

An adult or second summer Sabine's Gull flew north off South Shore at 1650 on the 12th, and on the 18th 3 Little Terns were noted at the same venue. Also on the 18th a Lesser Black-backed Gull was found dead at Rossall which had been ringed at Plank Lane Tip, Leigh in 1984. A Barn Owl hunted at Marton Mere in early July and on the 15th there were 100 Swifts at Westby.

On the 4th a male Redpoll was in song near the UCI cinema at Preston Docks, and a Grey Wagtail was on the Ribble in Preston. A juvenile Willow Warbler was at Stanah on the 15th whilst the first of the autumn at LSANR was seen on the 28th. Goldcrests were noted breeding at Freckleton, whilst on the 8th 3 Jays were at Wrea Green.

August

The month was dominated by strong south-west winds and belts of heavy rain but towards the end of the month an anticyclone developed introducing a calmer southwesterly airflow.

On the 2nd a pair and five young Little Grebe were on Fleetwood CEGB pool. The only seabirds of note reported were 13 Gannets and 133 Manx Shearwaters off South Prom on the 30th. Two Little Egrets were on the Ribble near Freckleton Naze on the 11th, with 3 Gadwall and an eclipse male Garganey here on the 8th. On the 31st 420 Teal were at the Naze. On the 2nd and 9th nine Goosander were on the Ribble off Avenham Park, Preston. Off south Prom 294 Shelduck moved south on the 30th, with 66 Common Scoter there the next day. The only raptors reported were a Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and Peregrine at the Naze on the 24th and two Buzzards over Westby the same day.

Wader passage continued during the month. At Stanah there were 400 Lapwing on the 2nd together with 420 Redshank and a Whimbrel, 400 Dunlin were noted on the 8th together with 60 Ringed Plover increasing to 100 on the 17th. On the 9th 700 Sanderling were on St. Annes beach, and on the 12th there were 12 Greenshank at the Naze. Later in the month there were 3000 Lapwing at the Naze, with a Ruff on 30th-31st and 10 Greenshank on the 31st. At Lane Ends, Pilling 5-10 Golden Plover and 3 Whimbrel were present on the 25th whilst on the 29th 3 Black-tailed Godwits were at the Mere. Queen Mary School, St. Annes held 1400 roosting Black-tailed Godwits on the 25th, whilst 1600 were at Granny's Bay, Fairhaven on the 28th.

An adult pale phase Pomarine Skua moved south off South Prom at 0810 on the 3rd. The only other skua at this venue was an Arctic on the 31st. At Rossall a Black Tern and a Bonxie were seen on the 24th, with 172 Sandwich Terns there on the 31st. An adult *michahellis* Yellow-legged Gull was at Queen Mary School on the 23rd. At the Mere two Stock Dove flew west on the 21st. A Kingfisher was at Stanah on the 25th. On the 26th two Swifts were reported at Staining.

It would appear few passerines were on the move. Two Willow Warblers were at Stanah early in the month, with two Spotted Flycatchers at the Naze on the 15th. At month end a Lesser Whitethroat was at the Mere on the 29th together with a male and female Blackcap. A female Redstart was at Out Rawcliffe on the 31st. Fourteen Long-tailed Tits were at Stanah on the 27th. A large mixed flock of finches, mostly Linnets, were at Eagland Hill mid month and there was a Quail calling here at this time.

September

The weather continued its pattern of the previous month with the first half of September dominated by south-westerlies and heavy rain. Around mid-month high pressure arrived with light south-easterlies and higher temperatures. Easterlies predominated until month end.

A few Red-throated Divers were seen off the coast with 1 off Rossall on 4th and 1 off S Prom on 5th where there were 7 on 12th. A Little Grebe was at Freckleton entrance pool on the 5th and a Fulmar off Rossall on 6th. A lone Leach's Petrel was off S Prom on the 12th. 4 Pintail were on Marton Mere on 26th and 170 Coot on Fairhaven lake on 30th. Few raptors were again reported, a Sparrowhawk with a Starling kill in A Cleveleys garden on 9th and 3 Merlins and a Peregrine at Bank End, Thurnham on 11th.

Wader passage continued with up to 6 Spotted Redshanks at Stanah between 3rd and 6th together with 3 Greenshanks, 4 Curlew Sandpipers, 1 Green Sandpiper and 3 Common Sandpipers. 8 Curlew Sandpipers were off S Prom on 6th whilst on the same date 3000 Knot and 60 Grey Plover were on St Annes beach. Bank End, Thurnham played host to good wader passage on 11th with 24 Greenshank, 50 Curlew Sandpipers, 15 Little Stint and 1 Spotted Redshank. The same day there were 8 Curlew Sandpipers and 17 Ruff at Lane Ends. On 17th 2 Ruff and 1 Greenshank were on a flood between Staining and Weeton whilst on 20th a Green Sandpiper was on the Wyre at Out Rawcliffe. The next day there were 13 Curlew Sandpipers and 2 Little Stints off Fairlawn Road, Lytham.

A few more skuas were in evidence this month with a Long-tailed off Rossall on the 3rd and 4th. 2 Arctics were off S Prom on 5th with 1 on 6th and 1 on 11th. Another Arctic was seen off Knott End on 5th with 4 off Rossall on 15th. The only Bonxies recorded were 1 off S Prom on 6th and 2 on 12th. Tern passage continued throughout the month, with 174 Common terns recorded off Little Bispham in 2 hours on the 4th and 230 off S Prom on 5th. On the same date 240 Sandwich Terns were noted past S Prom with 56 on the 4th at Little Bispham. 100 Sandwich Terns were also off Rossall on the 15th. the only Black Tern recorded was a juvenile off S Prom on the 1st of the month.

A Barn Owl hunted the Mere at dusk on the 1st and a Short-eared Owl was reported at LSANR on 24th and 25th. The Swallow roost at the Mere has low numbers this year but 2500 were recorded on the 8th. A small passage of Grey Wagtails was noted at Fairhaven, Rossall and St Annes. 770 Meadow Pipits passed over the Mere on 25th and 3 Wheatear were at Lytham on 29th. Spotted Flycatchers were noted at Winmarleigh on 2nd with 1 in a Cleveleys garden on 14th. A Willow Warbler and a Chiffchaff were at LSANR on 6th with a Chiffchaff and a female Stonechat there on 29th. 2 Chiffchaffs were at Stanah on 27th along with 6 Goldcrests and 9 Long-tailed Tits. The previous day there were 5 Coal Tits and 6 Goldcrests at St. Annes Crematorium. A large flock of 540 Rooks was on St Annes moss on 26th.

ANTARCTIC EXPERIENCE

Many of you will have missed my talk at the club in August, so I thought I would attempt to put a few of the many memories of my trip down on paper. Having seen many TV programmes about Antarctica it had always seemed to me the ultimate place to visit, the last great wilderness - it did not disappoint.

So it was with huge anticipation that myself and my wife left Heathrow bound for Buenos Aires via Miami with Birdquest last November on a three and a half week trip. On arrival at Buenos Aires an afternoon trip to Costenera Aur reserve had been arranged. The reserve is situated along the La Plata river and highlights included Snail Kite, Spectacled Tyrants, Coscoroba and Black-necked Swans and three species of Coot. Around 70 species were seen, a good introduction to South American birding. Next day a three hour flight to Ushuaia, the most southerly town in the world. In the afternoon we explored the southern beech forest and glacial valley immediately below the hotel, where our first Andean Condors - a magnificent bird. White-throated Treerunner, Patagonian Sierra Finch and Yellow Bridled Finches added to the fun. Next day a coach trip had been arranged to the scenic Tierra del Fuego National Park, via the local rubbish tip! At the tip White-throated, Crested and Chimango Carcaras were seen along with Chilean Skuas. In the national park itself apart from the magnificent scenery we saw Great Grebes at the nest, attractive Ashy-Headed Geese, Black Faced Ibis, more Andean Condors and the highlight for me, a magnificent pair of Magellanic Woodpeckers.

In the late afternoon we boarded our ship for the next 17 days, a former Russian research vessel known as the Akademick Shulykin. For a vessel of 70 metres length it was comfortable with cabins with private facilities, a bar, dining room and library. The crew were all Russian and the Marine Expeditions staff (the company running the trip in conjunction with Birdquest) Canadian. We left Ushuaia that evening and headed through the Beagle Channel where the first of hundreds of Black-browed Albatrosses were seen together with Antarctic Giant Petrels, Southern Fulmars and Magellanic Diving Petrels. Next morning some of us were up at first light to find our ship sailing NE towards the Falkland Islands in a pleasant rolling swell with dozens of birds following and alongside the ship. It was pretty hectic pelagic birding as we encountered our first Royal and Grey-Headed Albatrosses, Cape Petrels, Slender-billed Prions, White-chinned Petrels, Sooty Shearwaters, Wilson's and Grey-backed Storm Petrels and Sub-antarctic Diving Petrels. The following morning we arrived at Westpoint Island in the Western Falkland Islands to be met by Striated Carcaras one of the world's rarest birds of prey together with Falkland Steamer Ducks the islands only endemic. A short walk brought us to a colony of Black-browed Albatrosses and Rockhopper Penguins. Later in the day we visited Carcass Island, where lots more species were added to our list, amongst them Magellanic Penguin, Kelp, Ruddy Headed and Upland Geese, South American Snipe, Tussock Bird, House and Grass Wrens, Canary-winged Finches and magnificent scarlet chested Long-tailed Meadow Larks. An added bonus was a superb Two-banded Plover. After admiring the colony of Black-crowned Night Herons over tea in the local farmer's garden we returned to our ship accompanied by playful Commerson's Dolphins. Our next port of call was Stanley, where after bagging the target bird - Rufous-chested Dotterel a visit to the war memorial was obligatory. Then it was back to the ship with three days at sea en route to South Georgia. Seawatching continued to be very exciting anticipating what would turn up next. The huge Wandering Albatrosses were fantastic here and after crossing the Atlantic Convergence, Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses, Snow, Kerguelen, and Blue Petrels, Antarctic Prions, and Black-bellied Storm Petrels began to appear. A force eight gale and huge seas added to the fun as waves cascaded over the bridge, now the only safe place to watch from. The Southern Ocean was giving us a taste of its power. Finally we sighted land through the salt encrusted windows - South Georgia.

The island has been described as the 'Alps rising out of the Sea'. An apt description, dramatic peaks rising directly from the water to 12000 feet. It struck me as a beautiful sight, and as evening fell a gorgeous sunset draped the snow covered mountains as though to extend a warm welcome to this remote and wondrous island. The next morning was spent at Gritviken where all the rusting paraphernalia of the old whaling industry, thankfully long idle, stood as testimony to man's greed and cruelty. Hundreds of Elephant Seals had to be negotiated before we could tick the dainty South Georgia Pintail, a race of Yellow-billed Pintail. In the afternoon a pod of Killer Whales escorted us out of the bay at Gritviken towards St Andreas Bay and the first wondrous avian sight of this magnificent island - 100,000 King Penguins, including large numbers of brown woolly chicks. Next morning a group of angry and aggressive Fur Seals barred our way to the higher reaches of Albatross Island. Eventually we managed to sneak through and were rewarded with a loose colony of breeding Wandering Albatrosses staring benignly at us. The tickers amongst us soon located the only passerine of the sub-antarctic islands the South Georgia Pipit - a little brown job but a necessity for your list. The following day we landed amongst hundreds of Elephant Seals on the beach at Gold Harbour, where an extensive climb brought some of us to within yards of a breeding colony of Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses. In the late afternoon we sadly had to leave South Georgia an island which, during the short summer, plays host to millions of breeding seabirds and must be one of the most spectacular places on earth for wildlife.

We now set sail for Antarctica itself and almost immediately began to run into vast stretches of pack ice which slowed us down considerably. It took the best part of four days (an extra day) to get through the enormous and unusual amounts of pack ice. Was El Nino responsible for this also? Birding continued to be exciting although the only new species were Georgian Diving Petrels and Soft Plumaged Petrels. Eventually we reached the South Shetland Islands where we were the first humans to set foot since the previous summer. The weather was fantastic and the quality of light unbelievable as we added four species of seal to our list and trudged uphill to our first Chinstrap Penguin colony. We were also able to observe the nesting Giant Petrels, Antarctic Skuas and Terns. The amazing glaciated backdrop and the superb light of the setting made for a wonderful Antarctic panorama and made us feel privileged to be part of this magical experience. Next day we awoke surrounded by giant icebergs and pack ice in the Antarctic Sound. At last we landed on the Antarctic Continent itself at Brown's Bluff. Further south towards the Weddell Sea the pack ice was solid shore to shore. We were amongst our first Adele Penguin colony - the world's only truly Antarctic Penguin other than the Emperor Penguin. They reminded me of little men in evening dress as they wandered about their business. Later we set sail for Astralobe Island through spectacular icebergs but ice conditions did not allow us to reach within 30 miles of this island. We were forced to turn back and make a late landing at Robert Island where dozens of Wilson's Petrels were coming to their burrows for the night. It was after midnight when we arrived back at the ship. After an early morning landing at Aitcho Island accompanied by a grim faced Leopard Seal performing around the zodiac we set sail for Deception Island. En route we were lucky to encounter two humpback Wales which played around the ship for 3/4 hour in millpond conditions. In the afternoon we landed at Deception Island where the huge colony of 250,000 Chinstrap Penguins covered the vast hillsides. Finally, after sailing through Neptunes Bellows into the oaldera of a former volcano it was time to set sail for home. After a smooth two day crossing of the Drake passage it was so calm that we were able to land on Cape Horn, quite a bonus. Back in Ushuaia we caught the plane back to Buenos Aires where a final day was spent at Otamendi National Park north west of the capital. Here in tropical temperatures again we spent some hours noting a totally different set of birds such as Rufescent Tiger Heron, Lon-winged Harrier, Chicli Spinetail and beautiful Scarlet headed Blackbirds - the culmination of a trip heartily recommended to anyone interested in magnificent wildlife and remote spectacular scenery at the end of the earth.

A J Hinchliffe

THE FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 1996-2006

Put simply, this document will define the fate of all the land in Fylde Borough until 2006!

The public were invited to comment on the contents of the draft in May. We did not see this coming and only had a couple of weeks notice to find out what it contained and prepare a response. The Club loaned a copy of the draft, (cost £25 to buy!) and hastily assessed its depressing contents. Public meetings were held in May which were attended by the Club's Chairman and myself and a written response was delivered to the Council.

This experience taught us a lesson, which is that we must be prepared for possible threats to valuable sites by collecting the ornithological data in advance, in order that we can respond in time. Planners won't wait 12 months while we conduct a survey and simply 'knowing' a site is 'good for birds' is a weak argument. This is why the Chairman has asked us all to help in identifying key sites and building up records of the birds at these sites, then when 'they' want to put a bypass through your local patch, we can state with authority the reasons why they shouldn't.

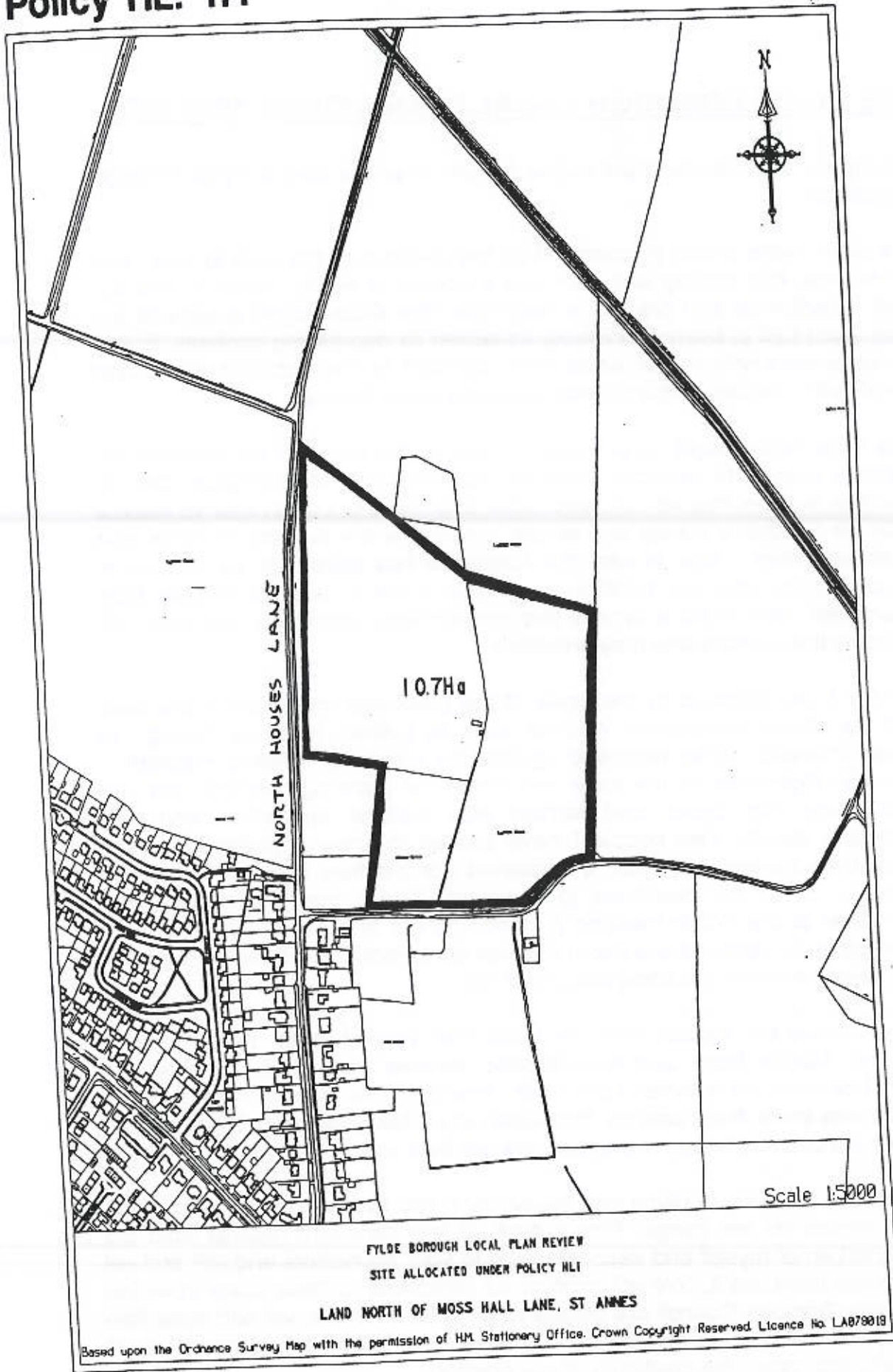
Frankly I was shocked by the scale of the proposals contained in the Draft and the official assessment of sites such as Lytham Moss as having 'No known interests', when reviewed against the criteria of 'Wildlife Habitats'. I was also frightened by the ease with which the planning machine can turn countryside into bricks and tarmac with minimal opposition and with surprising stealth. Few people I have spoken to knew anything about the Local Plan Review and what it contained nor did they know of the Public meetings or of the deadlines to comment. It was poorly publicised and attendees at the Public meeting pointed this out and asked why. However once plans for land use are set in the final document, the fate of the sites will be sealed, whether you knew about it or not.

What follows are extracts from the Local Plan Review Draft. Take a look at Lytham/ Marton Moss and superimpose 'policies' HL1.1, HL1.2, TR4 and TR5. Not much left is there? Last week I saw Barn Owl twice along Wild Lane and it was there, that I saw my first Quail only a few years ago. Sightings like these will become history if the planners get their way.

If you don't like these plans and especially if you live near an affected area, then please do two things. First submit all important bird records from the sites to Len or myself and secondly write to your councillors and MP and tell them you don't like it. We will confirm our objections to these plans in writing to Fylde Borough Council but please help. If, for example, we can state how many pairs of Corn Buntings, Tree Sparrows and Lapwings will be lost it will greatly strengthen the credibility of our position.

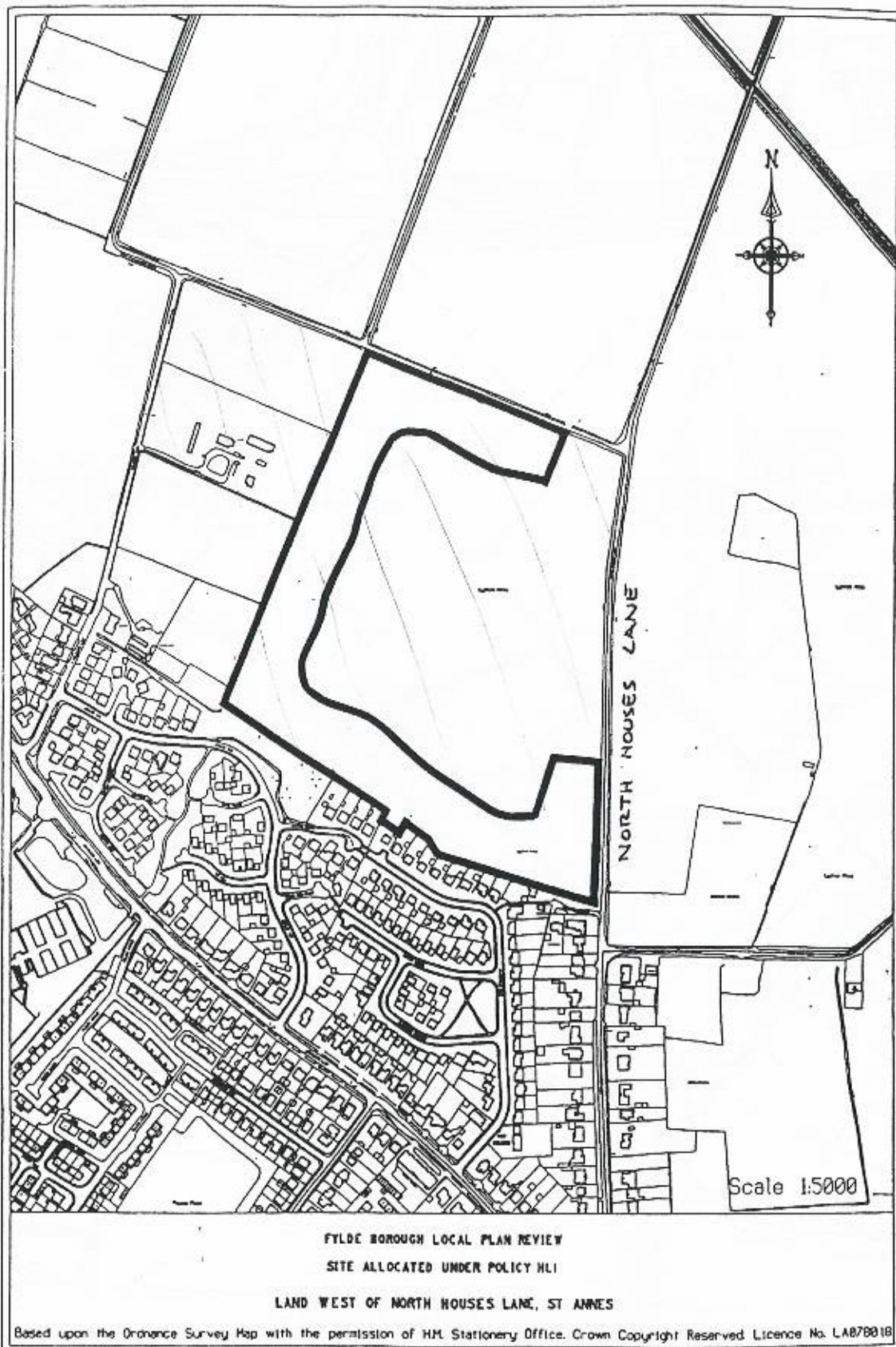
Paul Ellis.

Policy HL. 1.1

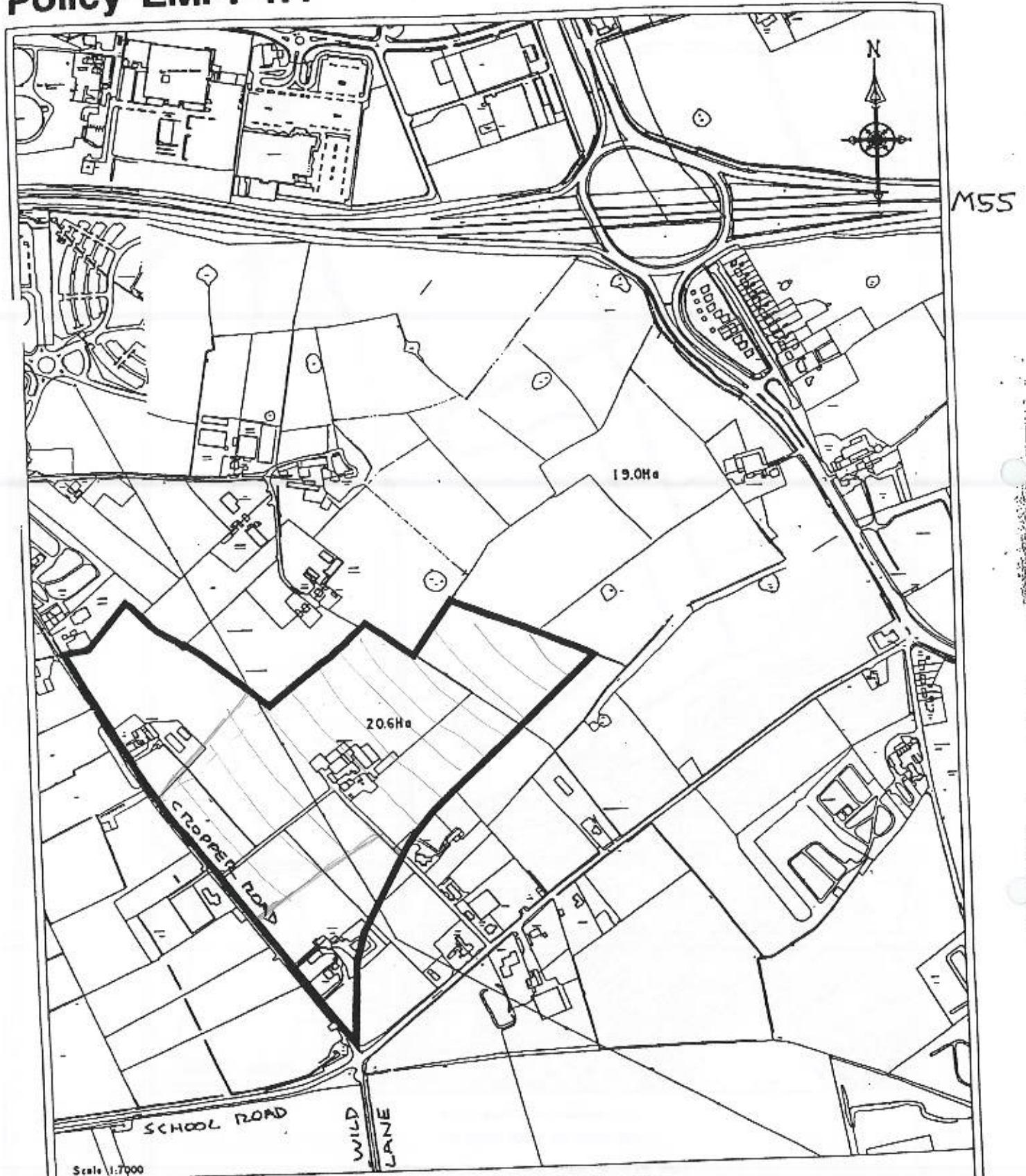


200

Policy HL. 1.2



Policy EMP. 1.1



Scale 1:7000

FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
SITE ALLOCATED UNDER POLICY EMP1
BLACKPOOL & FYLDE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WESTBY

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of HM Stationary Office. Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. LA070018

TREC16,
REC26

M55

TR3

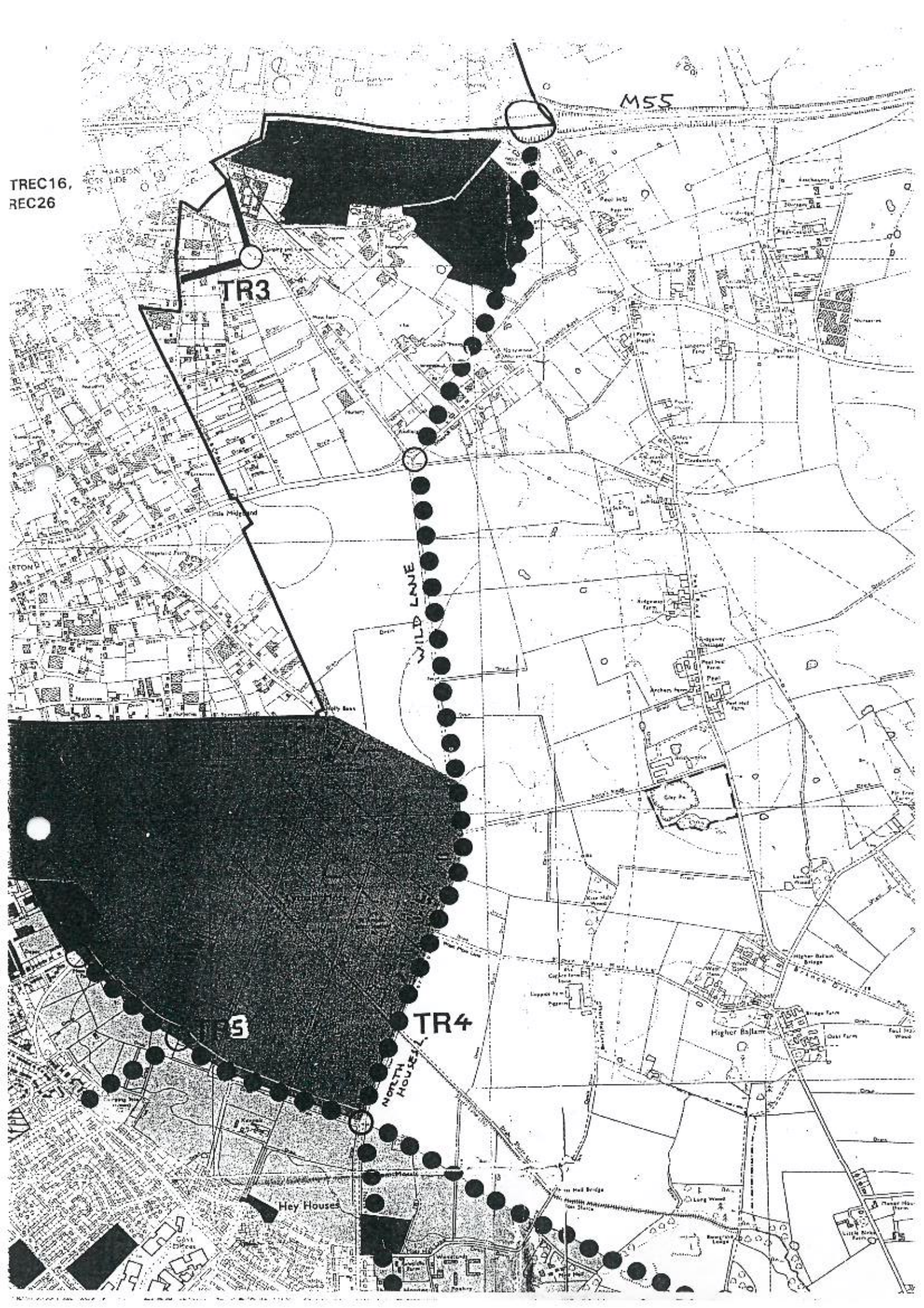
WILD LANE

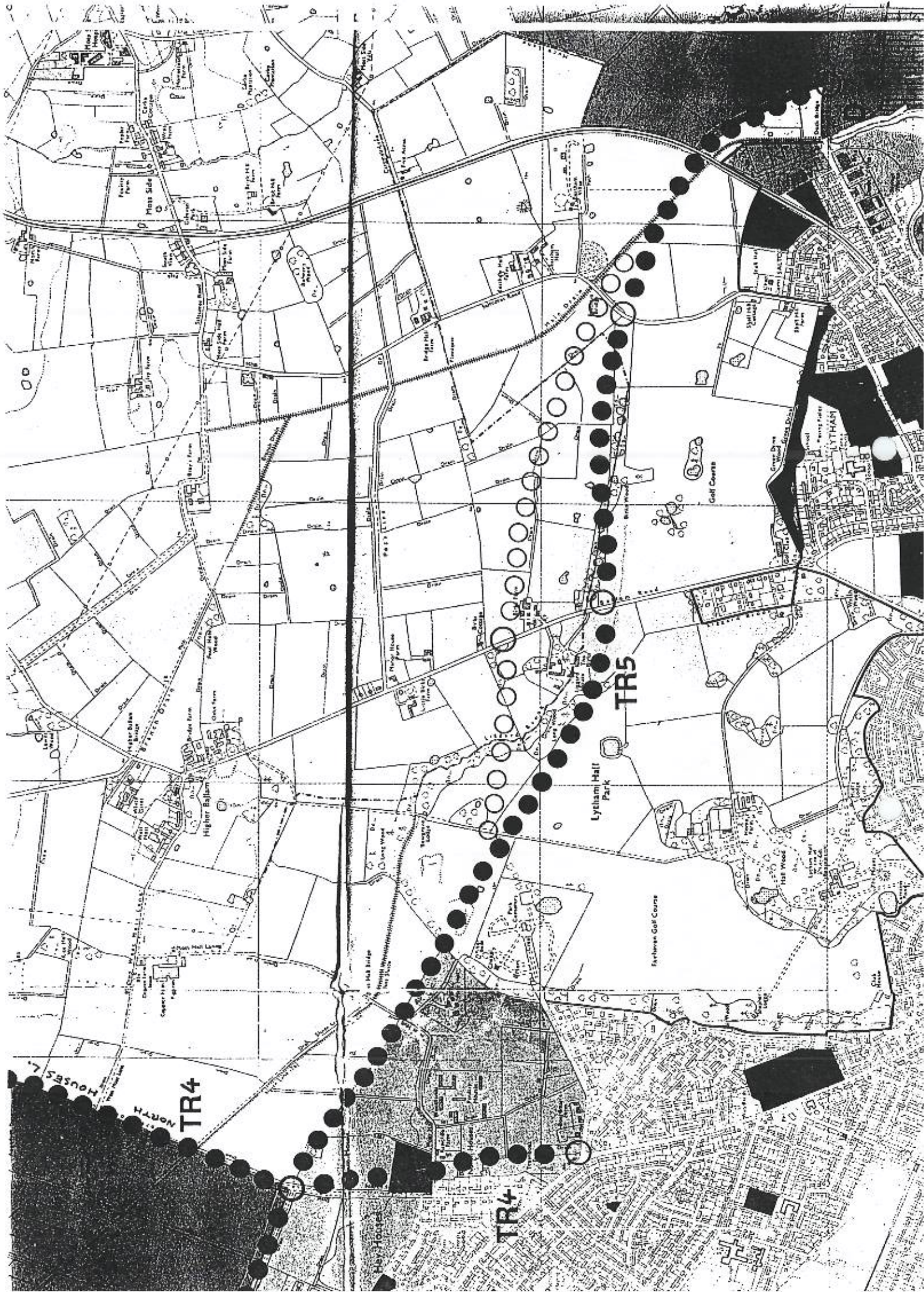
3

TR4

NORTH HOUSES L.

Hey Houses





TR4

TR5

Lytham Hall Park

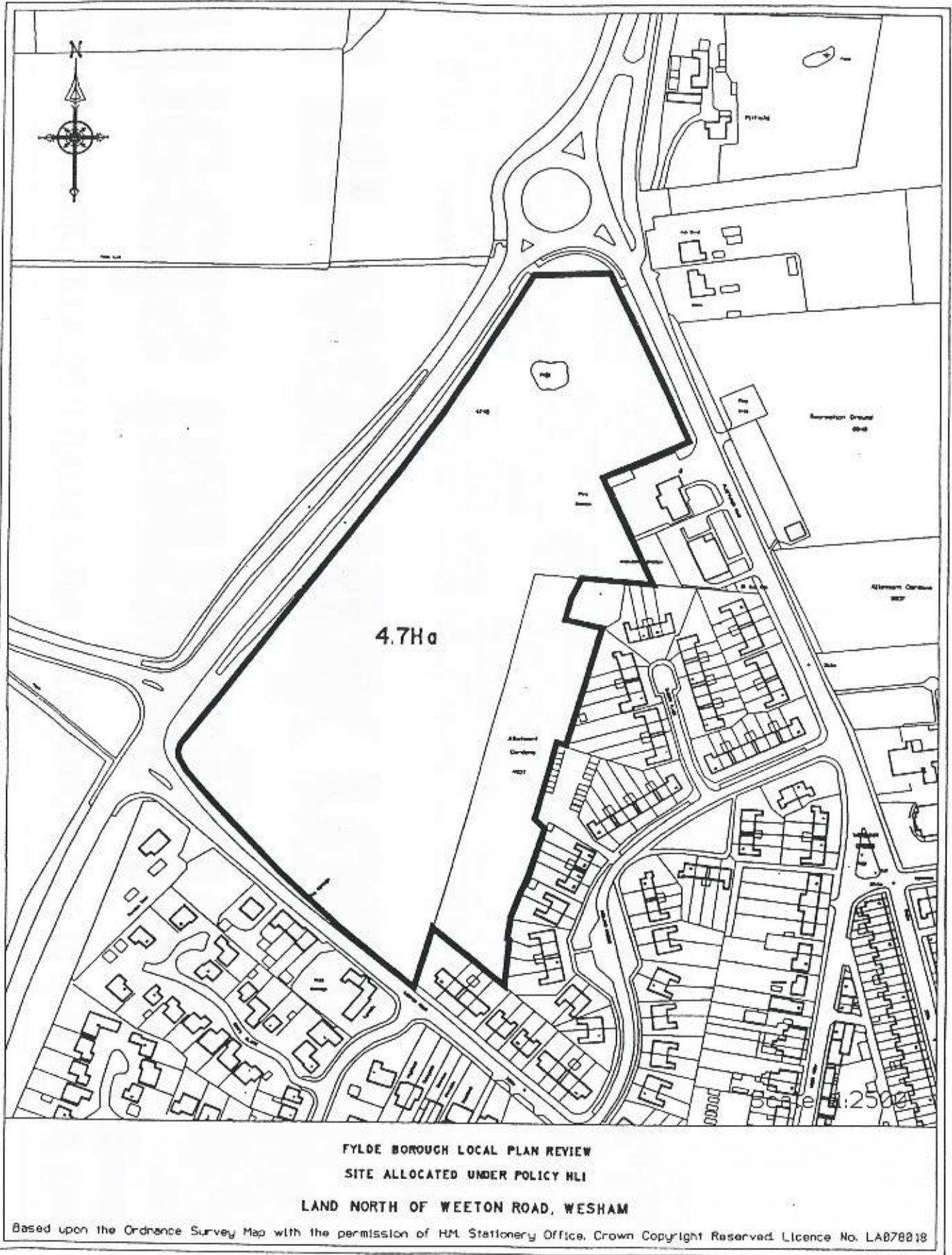
Lytham Golf Course

Houses L.

Houses N.

TR4

Policy HL. 1.4



■ Heyhouses could provide a direct route from South Fylde to the M55 at Peel

Wheels turning for an m-way link road

THE wheels will be set in motion this week for plans for a new road linking Lytham St Annes to the motorway network.

Transport chiefs believe the Heyhouses link will provide a vital direct route from South Fylde to the M55 at Peel and reduce congestion along traffic-clogged roads to St Annes.

"This week, the county's highways and transportation committee will be asked to approve the start of design work for the project

By ADRIAN DARRYSMIRE

and to begin the long process of compulsory purchase of land to secure the road's route.

But no construction can get underway until private funding can be found - although highway bosses are confident there will be no problem in finding much of the money.

The proposed new road would run across Lytham Moss from Blackpool Road in the south to the A583 in the north, close to junction 4 of the M55.

Part of the link, from a new roundabout on the A583 to the junction of Cropper Road and Whitehill Road, is already under construction as part of the B&Q development, at Dugdale Farm.

Moss

A 1km section from Blackpool Road, Ansdell, to Moss Hall Lane, is being funded by Kensington Developments who are building a large housing scheme at Regent Avenue.

But funding is still required for the main section for the road running across the Moss although this could come from housing and com-

mercial developments that have been mooted for the area.

These include a possible housing scheme north of Moss House Lane on land owned by the family of failed tycoon Owen Oyston.

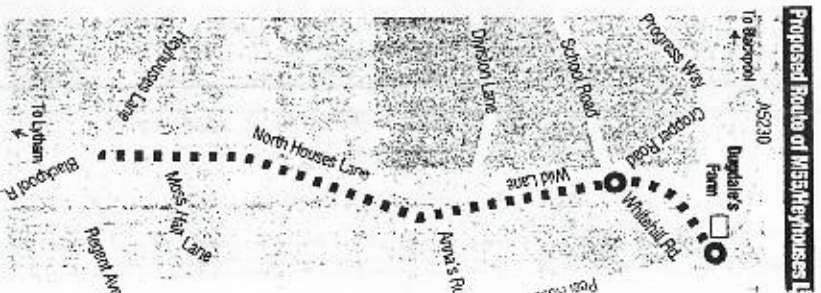
Terry Dean, the county's assistant director of transportation policy, explained that rate payers would not be asked to pay for the project.

He said: "Fylde Council think this is a very good scheme and so do we. But we don't believe it should be a call on the public purse. "We take the view that this road

can be wholly or substantially funded by contributions from developments in the area. There are quite a number of developments in the offing."

County highways chairman Richard Toon said: "There is a need for new infrastructure in this area. The current road system is struggling to cope with existing demand."

Fylde Council leader Paul Hayhurst said: "This road is important because it will be link a major area of population to the motorway network."



Proposed Route of M55/Heyhouses Link

Policy HL 1.6

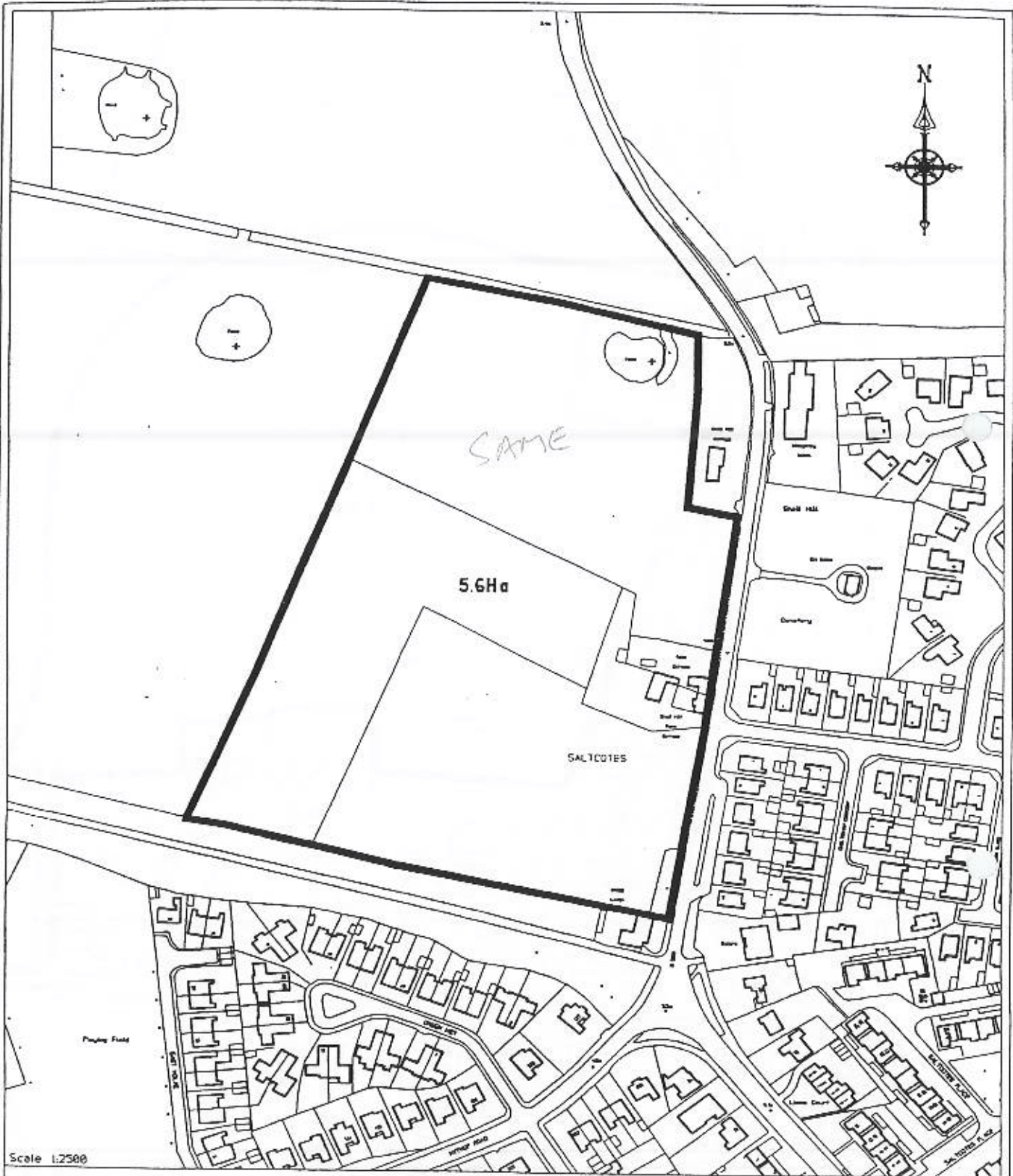


FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
AREA OF SEARCH UNDER POLICY HLI

LAND EAST OF FLEETWOOD ROAD, WESHAM

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of HM Stationary Office. Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No LA878818

Policy HL. 1.7

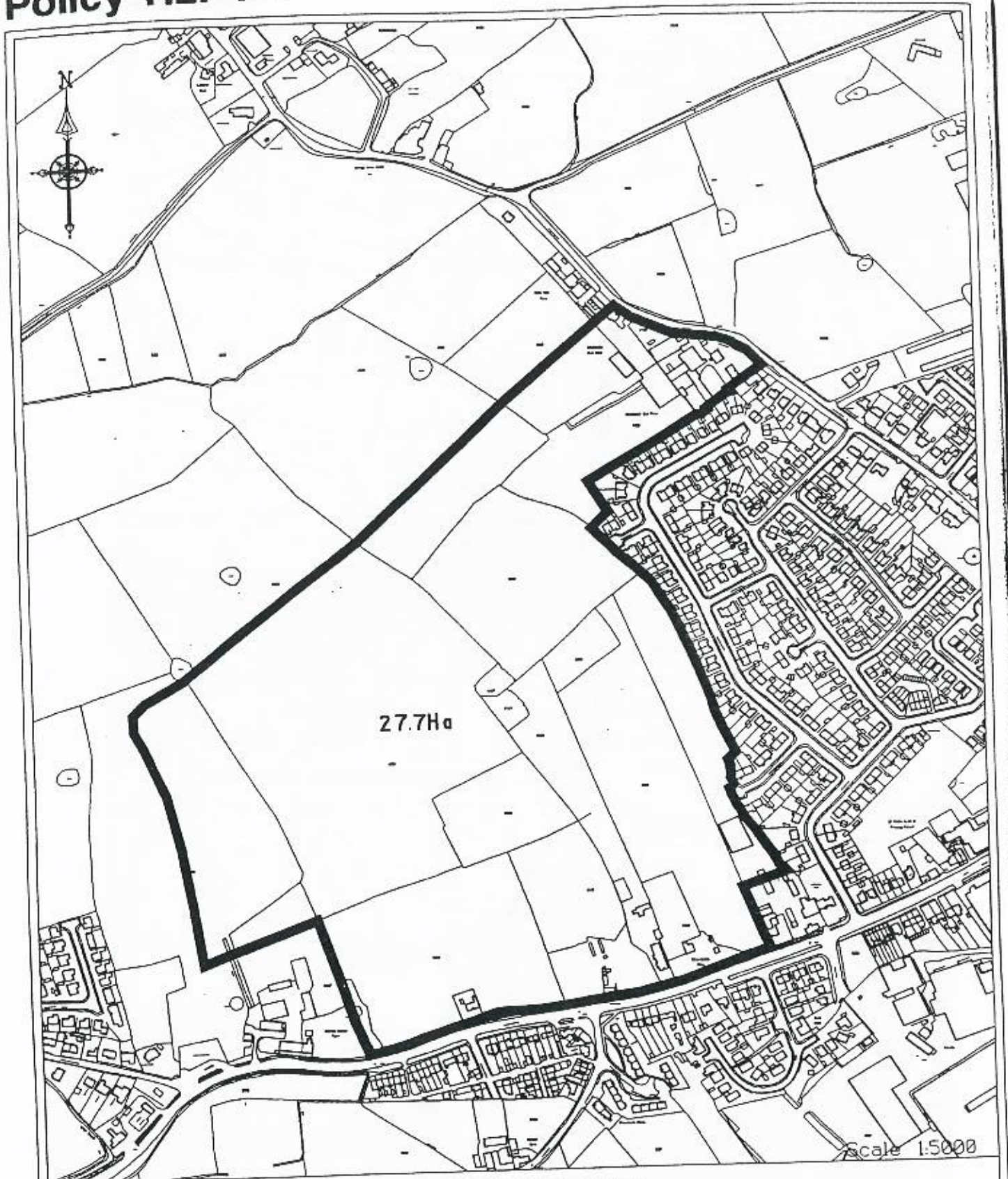


Scale 1:2500

FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
SITE ALLOCATED UNDER POLICY HL1
LAND AT SHELL HILL FARM, LYTHAM

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of HM Stationery Office. Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. LA878018

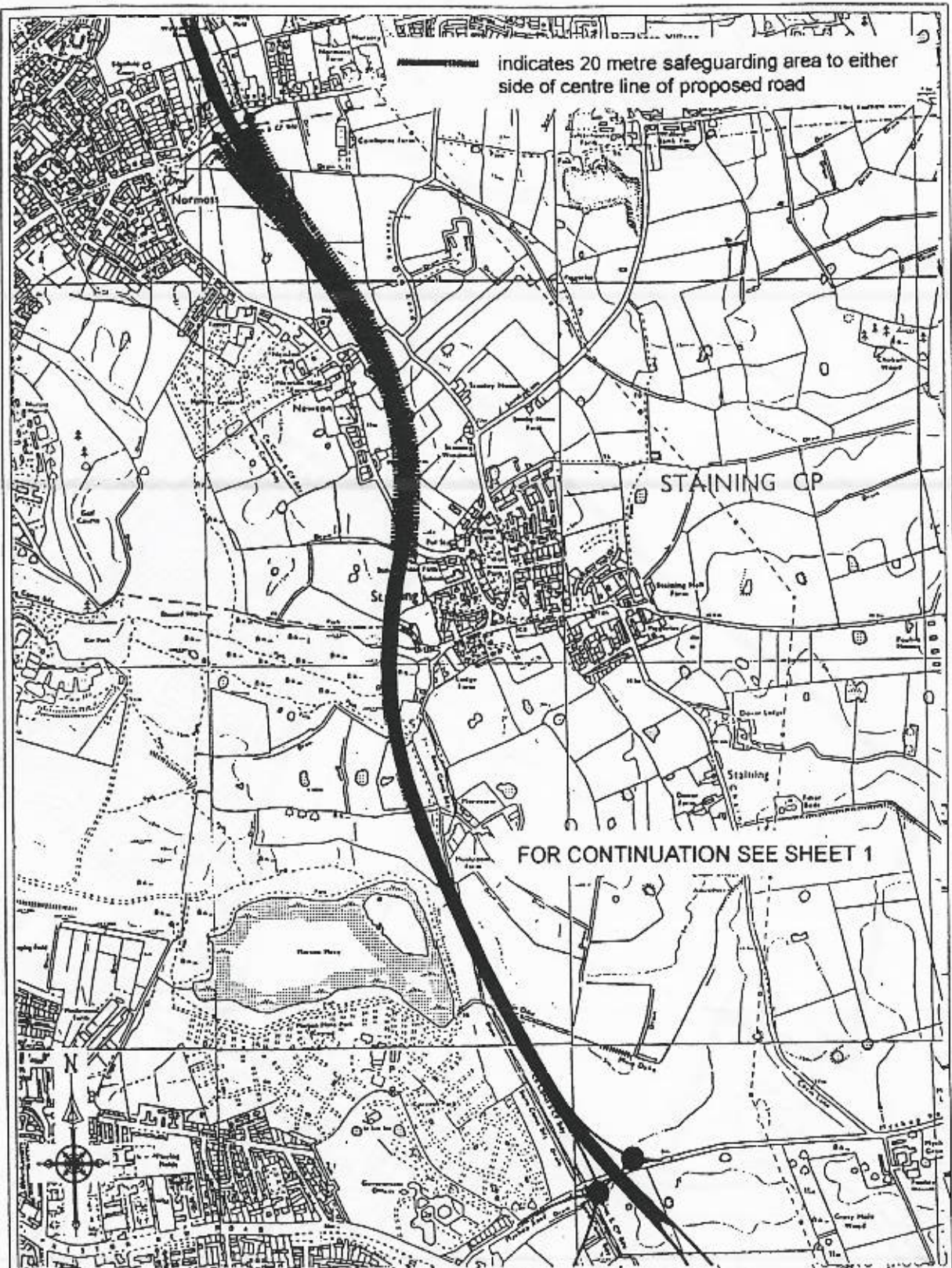
Policy HL. 1.8



FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
AREA OF SEARCH UNDER POLICY HL1
LAND WEST OF WARTON

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of HM. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. LAB78018

GONE



FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

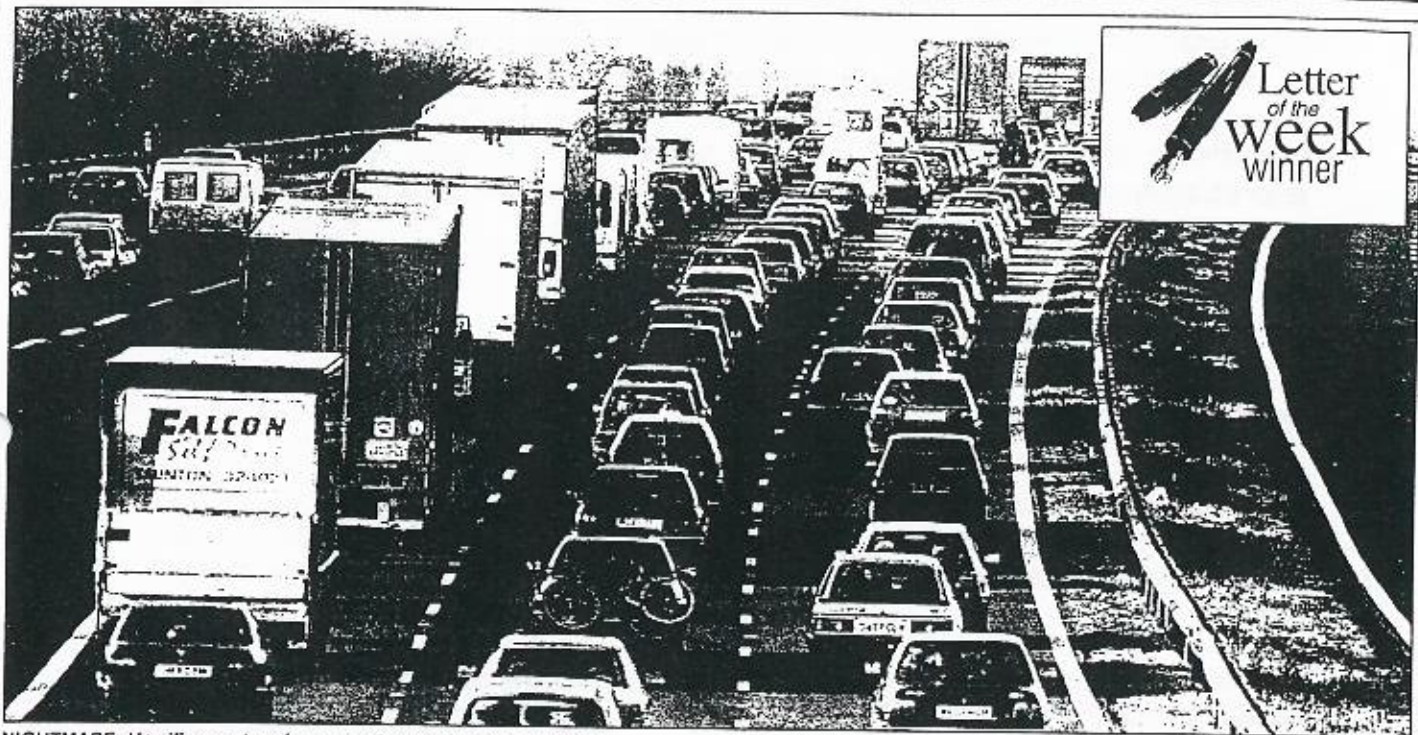
FYLDE COAST EASTERLY BY-PASS

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of HM Stationery Office. Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. LA070018

Talk of the Coast

WIN A MONT BLANC FOUNTAIN PEN

Every week The Gazette - in association with Cole the Jeweller - will give away a Mont Blanc Classic fountain pen (model 131) worth £110 for our Letter of the Week. Winners will be announced each Friday.



NIGHTMARE: Horrific spectre of a new motorway through the Fylde

Letter of the week winner

Think again to tackle the nightmare on our roads

THE Gazette (August 14) reopened the debate on the Red Route or Fylde Coast Easterly Bypass.

The horrific spectre of a new motorway through the heart of the region has hung over us for far too long. Surely now is the time to lay it to rest and rationally consider the alternatives.

Firstly, congestion on the A585 could be substantially alleviated by upgrading this existing road. The work required would be relatively cheap, cause little environmental damage and would affect relatively few residents compared with the nightmare of the Red Route.

The traffic lights at Singleton could be replaced by a large roundabout and if necessary by a fly-over allow-

ing the A585 to pass straight through. Combined with roundabouts at the junctions with the A588 (Shard Bridge) and A386 (Windy Harbour) these works would transform this road and allow it to fulfil its potential.

Secondly, the issue of a rail link to Fleetwood was raised in the article. If you look at a map you will see that there is a disused rail track from Poulton to Fleetwood Docks. This rail link could and should be restored without delay to carry both freight and passengers.

Congestion

It is an obvious move, which would do much to ease congestion on the roads in our immediate area and far beyond. Taken together these measures would reduce congestion on the A585 to an acceptable level.

The lessons from the past, which both of the last Governments accepted, are that new roads just fill up with more and more traffic and you can never build enough.

Traffic volume can and must be controlled. The days of building ever more roads, whatever the environmental and economic costs, for ever more cars are over - it is simply unsustainable.

I would suggest that the current cries for the resurrection of the Red Route have much more to do with the fact that the pro campaigners live on the A585 than anything else.

Perhaps they should not have chosen to purchase houses on a busy main road, rather than now attempting to visit the horror of a new motorway on the rest of us!

Make no mistake, this new road

would effectively be a motorway and included in the huge areas of green countryside which it would destroy are Stabling Nook County Biological Site and the edge of Marton Mere Local Nature Reserve.

The Red Route would literally run at the side of the water at the Mere, which is an official Site of Special Scientific Interest, and would certainly ruin the site for wildlife and as an amenity for people.

PAUL ELLIS
Staining Rise
Staining

REGARDING the idea to have a bus and taxi lane on the Promenade to speed up traffic... isn't that the exact opposite of what is needed?

Visitors to the town already have to cope with taxis which most of them

are unfamiliar with. Fast moving vehicles on the inside lane would only be a recipe for disaster.

Far better would be toll booths north of the Manchester pub and just south of the Gynn, free for buses and taxis of course.

This would divert most through traffic and slow the rest down making it safer for pedestrians and easier to cross the Promenade.

The revenue could pay for improvements to roads elsewhere in Blackpool.

The charge need only be nominal, but the hold-up would deter most motorists who are only passing through anyway.

G CARTWRIGHT
Harrowside
South Shore

BIRD AND NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS

The longer standing members will know that myself and Len have a substantial stock of bird books including field guides, handbooks, monographs etc. which are available for sale to Club members at a discount of 10%. New titles are always available and any not in stock can be obtained quite quickly. Newer members may not be aware of this - please do not hesitate to enquire if you require any titles. Your support will be greatly appreciated and also benefits the Club in that we can donate books or supply them cheaply to the Club for raffles, prizes etc.

A.J.H.

RINGING RECOVERIES

In the past the Fylde Bird Report has included a ringing report, largely based on information from the Fylde Ringing Group. Unfortunately the FRG no longer supply this information and the ringing report has thus been missing from recent bird reports.

Consideration is presently being given to including a ringing report in the club report based on members' observations. From time to time BTO ringed birds will be recovered by club members, the recent sightings includes details of a 14 year old Lesser-black Backed Gull I stumbled upon on the tideline at Rossall.

The area in which there is most scope for us to publish ringing information is, however, colour ringed birds. There are several species which turn up in the Fylde, which are often or occasionally colour ringed, including:-

Mute Swans (Darvic leg rings)
Bewick's and Whooper Swans (Darvic leg rings and neck collars)
Pink-footed Geese (Darvic leg rings and neck collars)
waders (colour leg rings)
gulls (colour leg rings, and more recently Darvic leg rings also)
Bearded Tits (colour leg rings)

There are a number of other species which could turn up with colour rings, for example Stonechats.

If you have records of ringed birds not previously published in the Fylde or Lancashire reports please pass them to Paul Ellis with your other sightings at the year end, or pass specific ringing returns to me. This will enable a decision to be made on whether a separate ringing report is worthwhile, or not.

Stephen Dunstan



**Fylde
Bird Club**
LANCASHIRE

FYLDE BIRD CLUB
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 8:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY
THE 15 TH OF JULY AT BLACKPOOL CRICKET CLUB

Present

Chairman; Secretary, Treasurer and 24 members.

Apologies were received from Philip and Janet Ashman, Barry Dyson, Alan Hinchliffe and Joan Hopkinson.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last business meeting held on the 15th of April were read and approved.

Agenda / Matters Arising

1) Blackpool Zoo

The Chairman reported that he and the Secretary had met with the Zoo's manager. The meeting had been constructive and it was agreed that passive methods of discouraging nuisance gulls would be tried which may include the use of nets to act as barriers.

The Zoo manager had offered to allow access to members to conduct a breeding bird survey within the Zoo grounds, which would be of interest to both parties.

2) Sites Data File

The Chairman stated that he had begun to compile a provisional list of important unprotected sites and reminded members to contribute to this project. He added that requests for data on the value of sites were commonly received and that he had just been requested to provide information on the ICI reservoir at Fleetwood.

3) Local Bird Information Service

Stephen Dunstan reported that the one-month trial service had not been a success owing to very low use by members requesting information. Incoming information had been forthcoming and a number of interesting birds were present during the period. It was suggested that when launched, a lot of people were on holiday, which will not have helped and that more publicity would be needed. Dave Pitman opined that it would take people a little time to get used to using such a service. Stephan suggested that he may try again next April/ May.

Other Matters Arising are covered under Correspondence.

Correspondence

1) Permanent Hide at Marton Mere

A letter had been received from Blackpool Borough Council requesting the Secretary to put the proposal for a Club funded hide to the membership. A second letter had been received from the Council, which stated that Marton Mere Leisure Village had offered to contribute £500 towards the cost of the Hide. The Secretary commented that the membership had already agreed in principle to fund a hide at the Mere but that the details of the plan were yet to be formally recorded in order that both parties could proceed. The Secretary agreed to pursue the matter with Blackpool Borough Council.

Tony Myerscough asked if planning permission had been granted. The Chairman replied that the Council had stated in an earlier letter that planning permission would be granted if the dimensions of the building fell within certain limits and that this proposal fell well within these limits.

2) Leys Farm

The Secretary reported that he had written to the Leys Farm Action Group providing the data currently available on the ornithological value of the site. This data was largely based on a survey conducted by the Chairman in April.

The Chairman reported that Blackpool Borough Council had voted to proceed with the sale of the land but that the matter may not be settled yet and a further report on the site may be required from the Club.

3) Waste Transfer Site Planning Application at Jameson Road

The Secretary reported that in response to this planning application he and the Chairman had prepared an objection and submitted it to Wyre Borough Council. The objection raised concerns over the affect of the development on the adjacent Fleetwood Marsh County Biological Heritage Site.

This planning application had been brought to the attention of the Club by the Lancs Wildlife Trust, who had copied the Club with their own letter of objection.

4) Fylde Local Plan Review

The Secretary reported that he and the Chairman had prepared and submitted comments on a number of planning proposals contained in the local plan review documents, which threatened valuable sites.

The Chairman informed the membership that the next stage in the process would be in January when further data could be submitted to the Council for consideration. Copies of the maps of the areas affected by the proposed new developments were available for loan from the Chairman who invited members to examine them and comment.

5) Letter from John Poland

The Chairman read out a letter received from John Poland. The letter congratulated the Club on its activities and noted that unfortunately Bird Clubs in some other parts of the country were not prepared to campaign in defence of their environment .

A.O.B.

- 1) Frank Walsh announced that this year about 20 juvenile Hen Harriers had been wing tagged on N/W Water land in Bowland with blue tags on their right wings and green or pink on their left wings.
- 2) The status of the ex Coast Guards Tower at Rossall was raised. Members noted that windows had been broken. The Chairman informed the membership that a solution was being prepared by Wyre Borough Council introducing some shielding for the glass which would be fitted when the building was unoccupied.

Announcements

- 1) A guided walk led by the Friends Group would take place at Marton Mere meeting at 7:30pm tomorrow evening, followed by sandwiches and a drink at the Cricket Club.
- 2) The Chairman requested members to supply copy for the Newsletter.
- 3) New circular Fylde Bird Club Car Stickers, featuring the Lapwing logo, are available from tonight for a mere 50p each.

Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on the 19th of August when Alan Hinchliffe would present a talk and slide Show on Antarctica.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:15 hrs.

the
next
step!



BTO

GET INVOLVED —

It's easy to join in the work of the BTO.

Our members help chart the fortunes of most of our familiar birds by taking part in some of the many enjoyable surveys run by the BTO.

Join today for as little as £13.

As a new member you will receive:

- £5 T & AD Poyser Bird Book Discount Voucher
- If you are under 26, then you get a free ID Video Guide courtesy of BirdGuides
- BTO News magazine 6 times a year
- Contact with a local BTO Regional Representative

Call our Membership Unit now

with your credit card details:

01842 750050

or write to Sue Starling

for an information pack:

The British Trust for Ornithology,

The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU

Make your birding count