

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

LOCAL NATURE RESERVE REVIEW 2012

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To enhance the Council's suite of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) by declaring three new LNRs and amending the boundary of two others.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Environment Team has conducted a review of the Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) that it manages. Recently, we set a target of 2 hectares (ha) of LNR for every 1,000 people (Highways and Neighbourhoods Cabinet Member minute ref 72(71)). The purpose of the review was to show whether:
- The current range and extent of sites is the best possible for wildlife, public access and education.
 - New sites could be declared to fill any gaps and help meet targets.
- 2.2 The Council has declared ten LNRs to date. Eight of the ten LNRs were found to be fit for purpose. However, we need to make small boundary changes to two LNRs. We have shown these on the attached maps.
- 2.3 At Silica Park LNR, an area of 0.58 hectares of land is included although it has less wildlife value than the rest of the site. This area is largely car park with some grassland and ornamental trees. This area has been proposed as a site for a new children's campus.
- 2.4 The Council declared Phoenix Parkway LNR in 2006. This LNR included areas of woodland and acid grassland connected to Atkinsons Warren LNR. It also took in an area of reclaimed land, forming part of the Scunthorpe slagbanks. Since 2006, the Environment Team has worked with Property Services to consider different combinations of habitat works and development proposals for the slagbanks. The result is a proposal to reduce the extent of Phoenix Parkway LNR, allowing 2.22 hectares of development on reclaimed land. To balance this, we seek approval to declare a new area as the Phoenix LNR. This area will be managed for acid grassland, open mosaic habitats and important insects of brownfield land.

2.5 As well as this extension, we seek approval to declare new LNRs at Ashbyville and Conesby. These are both in Scunthorpe. The proposed Ashbyville LNR will take in Ashbyville Lake and nearby scrub, acid grassland and wetland habitat next to Bottesford Beck. Within that area, we hope to create a new pond to replace the fish pond that dried out in 2011. We will manage the remaining area for its important plants of wetland and sandy land. This will also help a wide variety of insects, birds and other animals.

2.6 The proposed Conesby LNR will take in restored parts of Conesby Quarry that we manage as acid grassland. It will also include the Normanby Road lake known as the “Blue Lagoon” and the surrounding grassland. This area supports a number of priority species, including skylark, lapwing and the grayling butterfly. All LNRs are also managed for public access and education.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Option 1- Make the proposed boundary changes and declare three new LNRs.

3.2 Option 2- Do not make any changes to LNRs.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Summary of the benefits of each option.

Benefit	Option 1 – Amend boundaries and declare three LNRs	Option 2- Make no changes to LNRs
Children’s campus at Silica Park provides “eyes and ears” to look after LNR.	✓	
Silica Park provides outdoor play for children’s campus	✓	
Children’s campus planning obligations bring wildlife gains and improved water safety at Silica Park LNR.	✓	
Car parking provided at Silica Park LNR for visitors.	✓	✓
Moving Phoenix Parkway boundary allows 2.22 hectares of development.	✓	
Declaration of 27.46 hectare Phoenix LNR	✓	
Declaration of 27.73 hectare Ashbyville LNR	✓	
Declaration of 39.68 hectare Conesby LNR	✓	
0.58 hectares of car park, grass, and trees retained at Silica Park LNR		✓
2.22 hectares of unmanaged land retained at Phoenix Parkway LNR		✓
Hectares of LNR per 1000 people (target 2)	1.73	1.23

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1. Financial

- 5.1.1. The Environment Team already budgets for work on LNRs. The Council has already committed funds to create Ashbyville LNR. Works to Silica Park LNR will form a small part of any project to create a children's campus.
- 5.1.2. We are able to reduce the costs of conservation projects by involving local volunteers in maintaining the sites. We can often get grants to cover additional costs.
- 5.1.3. There are up 3700 volunteer hours of work on LNRs every year.

5.2. Staffing

- 5.2.1. There is no additional staffing required as there is already a LNR officer in post. The LNR officer works with a strong team of community volunteers.

5.3. Property

- 5.3.1. All the LNR sites are Council owned. Boundary changes at Silica Park LNR and Phoenix Parkway LNR will release land for important developments.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1. Statutory

- 6.1.1. LNRs are declared under sections 19 and 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- 6.1.2. All public authorities have a duty to conserve biodiversity under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

6.2. Environmental

- 6.2.1. The recommendations will improve the natural environment and access to it. They will deliver several targets in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan. They fit in with the Buglife Scunthorpe Stepping Stones project. This project has revealed that the fringes of Scunthorpe are important for open mosaic habitats, grayling butterfly and other uncommon insects.

6.3. Crime and Disorder, Health and Social Inclusion.

- 6.3.1. Actions to improve biodiversity have been shown to reduce crime, fear of crime and vandalism. They also help to improve the mental and

physical health of local people. Volunteers and community groups will be involved in the LNRs.

6.3.2. Silica Park LNR is not well overlooked at present, and has suffered from litter, vandalism and animal cruelty (in particular, cruelty to swans) in recent years. Locating a children's campus here would provide more "eyes and ears" to look over the LNR. We want to form a conservation group with children from the campus. They will help to manage the LNR.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 We consulted Natural England on the proposals. They welcome the consultation on LNR changes and the proposals for new LNRs. They would like to be consulted further in the future as details of site management are agreed. They encourage public access and education on the LNRs

7.2 The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust welcomes the proposal for new LNRs.

7.3 Property Services have agreed the LNR boundaries. We have retained land and access for future development where necessary.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS



8.1 To enhance the Council's suite of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) by declaring three new LNRs and amending the boundary of two others as shown on the attached maps.

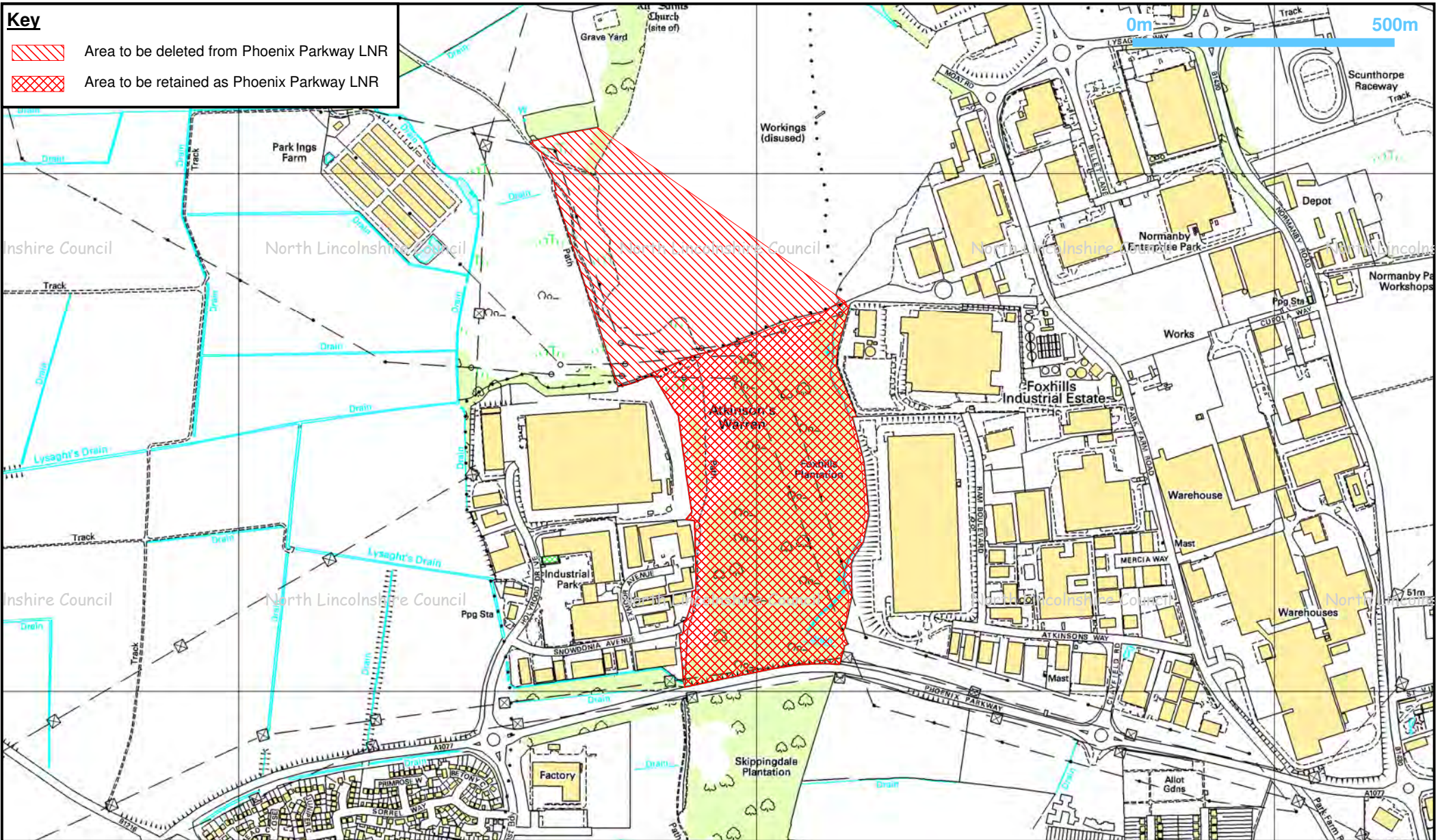
DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Date: 02 July 2012

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Nil

Key

-  Area to be deleted from Phoenix Parkway LNR
-  Area to be retained as Phoenix Parkway LNR



Title: Phoenix Parkway Local Nature Reserve Amendment

Drawing No:

Version: 1

Drawn by: Andrew Taylor

Date: 04/07/2012



Scale @A4 1:10000

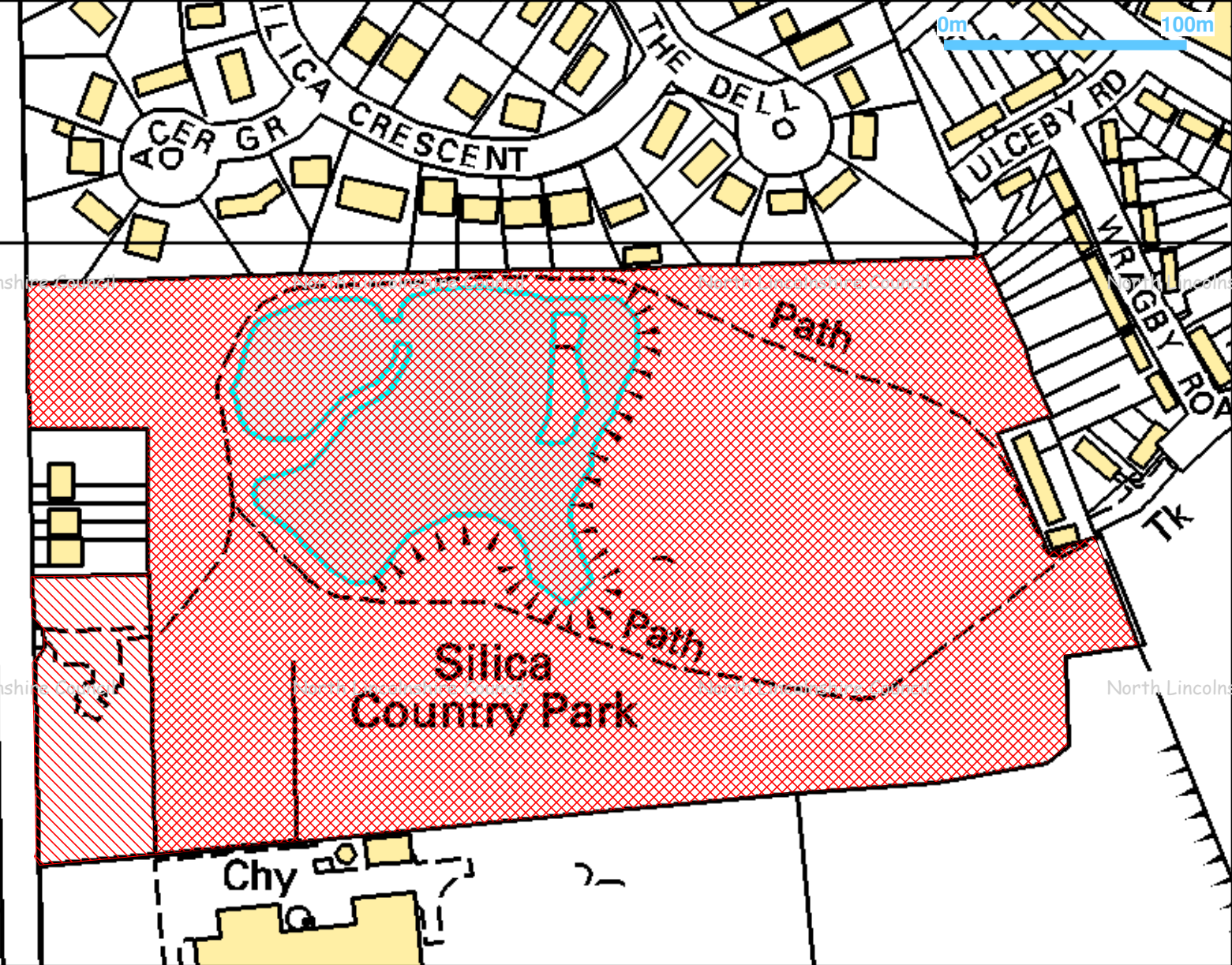
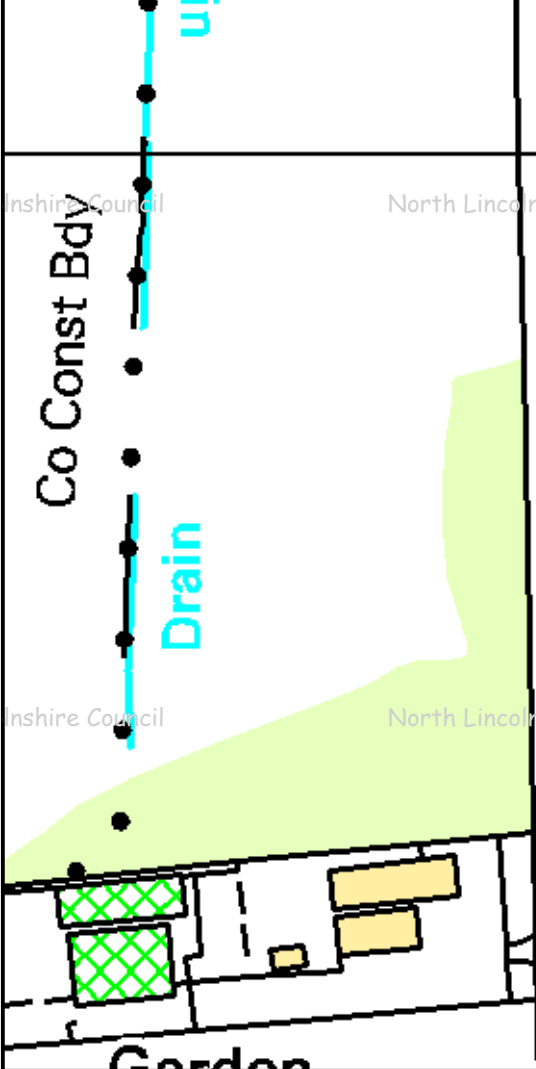


Director of Places
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Key

-  Area of LNR to be deleted
-  Area of LNR to be retained



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Title: Silica Park Local Nature Reserve Amendment

Drawing No:

Version: 1

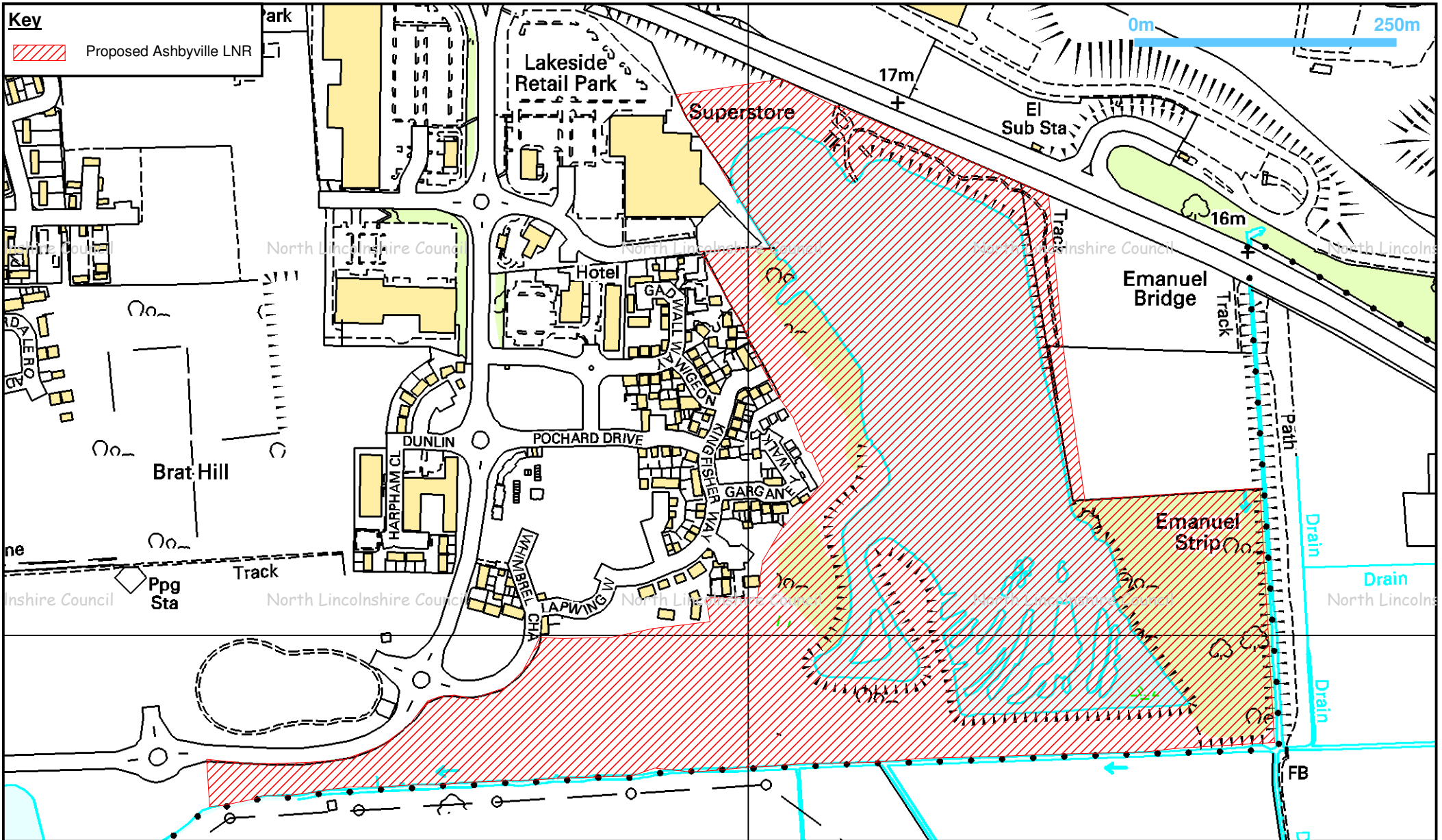
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Date: 22/06/2012

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Title: Proposed Ashbyville LNR revised 29 June 2012

Drawing No:

Version: 1

Drawn by: Andrew Taylor

Date: 29/06/2012

Scale @A4 1:5000

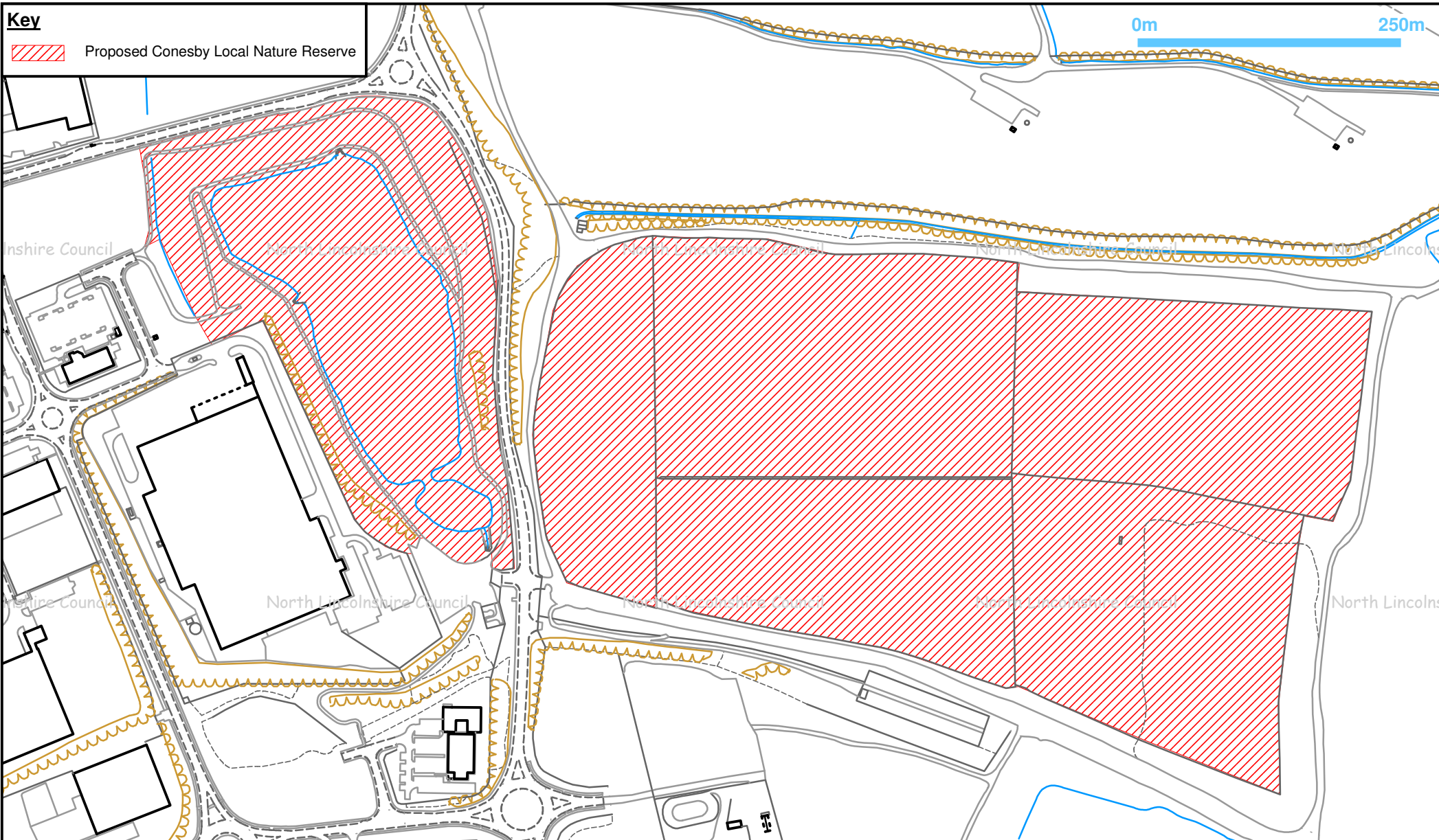


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Key

 Proposed Conesby Local Nature Reserve

0m 250m





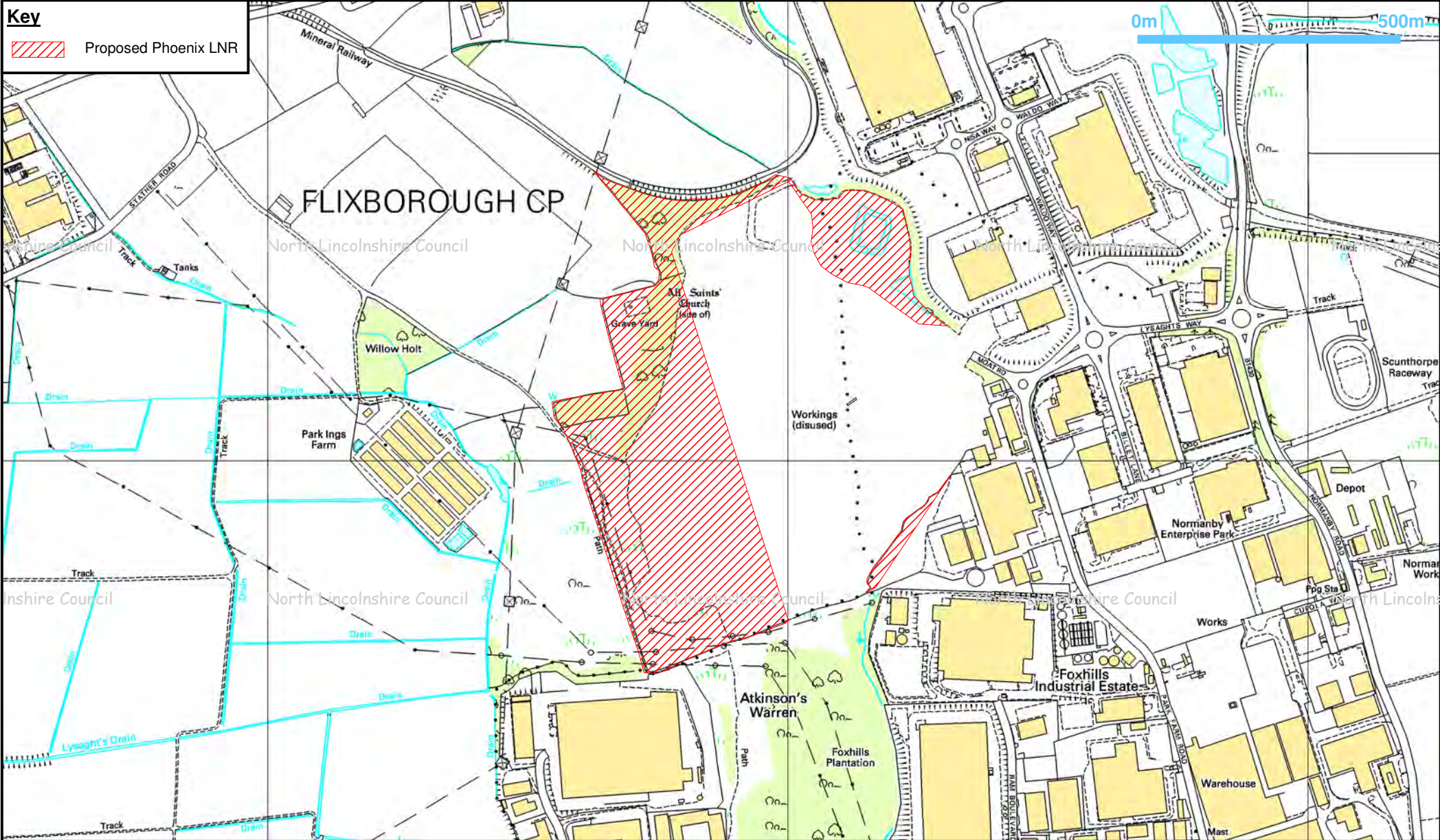
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Drawing No:	Version: 1
Drawn by: Andrew Taylor	Date: 28/06/2012
Scale @A4 1:5000	



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Key

 Proposed Phoenix LNR



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Title: Proposed Phoenix LNR 02 July 2012

Drawing No:

Version: 1

Drawn by: Andrew Taylor

Date: 02/07/2012

Scale @A4 1:10000



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