



## **REQUEST 19323**

1. Has the council been contacted to build any houses on Ashfield? That includes the area known as the Donkey part at the rear (Victoria Pit reclamation site)?
2. Has the council discussed with anybody the possibility of building on Ashfield inc the Donkey Part and Victoria Pit reclamation site areas?
3. Have the council discussed internally the possibility of building on / developing or disposing any part of Ashfield, the donkey part or Victoria Pit reclamation site?
4. Has the council been discussing internally or externally any sites in Standish? For the avoidance of doubt this is any sites with more than 10 houses, this also includes even if the council have refused or do not like any proposals put to them.
5. Have the council discussed the old tip site at on Chorley re across from the care home what that site can be used for including houses - this is with potential buyers or internally?

## **RESPONSE**

Q1, 2, 4 and 5

The information you have requested about any formal planning applications is environmental information and is therefore handled under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If such information exists, it is already publicly available on the Council's online Planning Register and can be accessed here:

[Search and comment on planning applications](#)

Support and guidance on how to search the information the Council holds on this section of its website is available on the above webpage, but is also provided in the accompanying 'Public Access User Guide' PDF document and via the link to the relevant page on the Council's website below:

[Idox PA for Planning User Guide](#)

By contrast, pre-application enquiries and submissions (including related correspondence and officer advice) are ordinarily withheld under the EIR for the following reasons.

First, pre-application engagement is voluntary and not required by statute; disclosure would adversely affect the interests of the person who provided the information and undermine the effectiveness of the pre-application process. The Council is therefore applying Regulation 12(5)(f) of the EIR (interests of the information provider).

Secondly, elements of the material may comprise internal communications (such as drafts and internal advice), which engage Regulation 12(4)(e). In appropriate cases, parts may also attract Regulation 12(5)(e) (commercial confidentiality) and Regulation 13 (personal data), which would be redacted if disclosure would contravene data protection law.

All EIR exceptions are subject to the public interest test, and we have considered the strong general interest in transparency against the need to preserve a safe space for candid, early-stage engagement and to avoid deterring voluntary provision of information that assists high-quality decision-making. On balance, in this case the public interest favours maintaining the above exceptions.

Q3. No

Q4. Additional information: As part of preparing the Wigan Borough Local Plan: Planning for the Future to 2040, the Council invited site submissions (“Call for Sites”).

Through that process, six Green Belt sites in Standish were submitted to the Council by landowners/developers. For transparency, plan extracts for these sites are enclosed with this response. The six submissions are:

- 29. Wigan Road (Boars Head), Standish
- 30. Rear of 332 Wigan Road, Standish
- 31. Land at Chorley Road, Standish
- 33. Arbor Lane, Standish
- 34. Land at Thompson House, Standish
- 35. Land west of Old Pepper Lane, Standish

These Call for Sites submissions form part of the evidence received for Local Plan preparation only. Their submission does not imply Council support or allocation, and they are being considered alongside other evidence through the plan-making process. Further information on the emerging Local Plan is available here:

[Wigan Borough Local Plan: Planning for the Future to 2040](#)

For completeness, the Places for Everyone (PfE) Plan (2022–2039) was adopted on 21 March 2024 and now forms part of the statutory development plan for Wigan. The Council’s current position is that no additional Green Belt land is required to meet the borough’s housing requirement to 2039 based on the adopted PfE framework. You can read more about PfE on the Council’s website (with links to the adopted plan and associated documents) at the following link:

[Places for Everyone Plan](#)

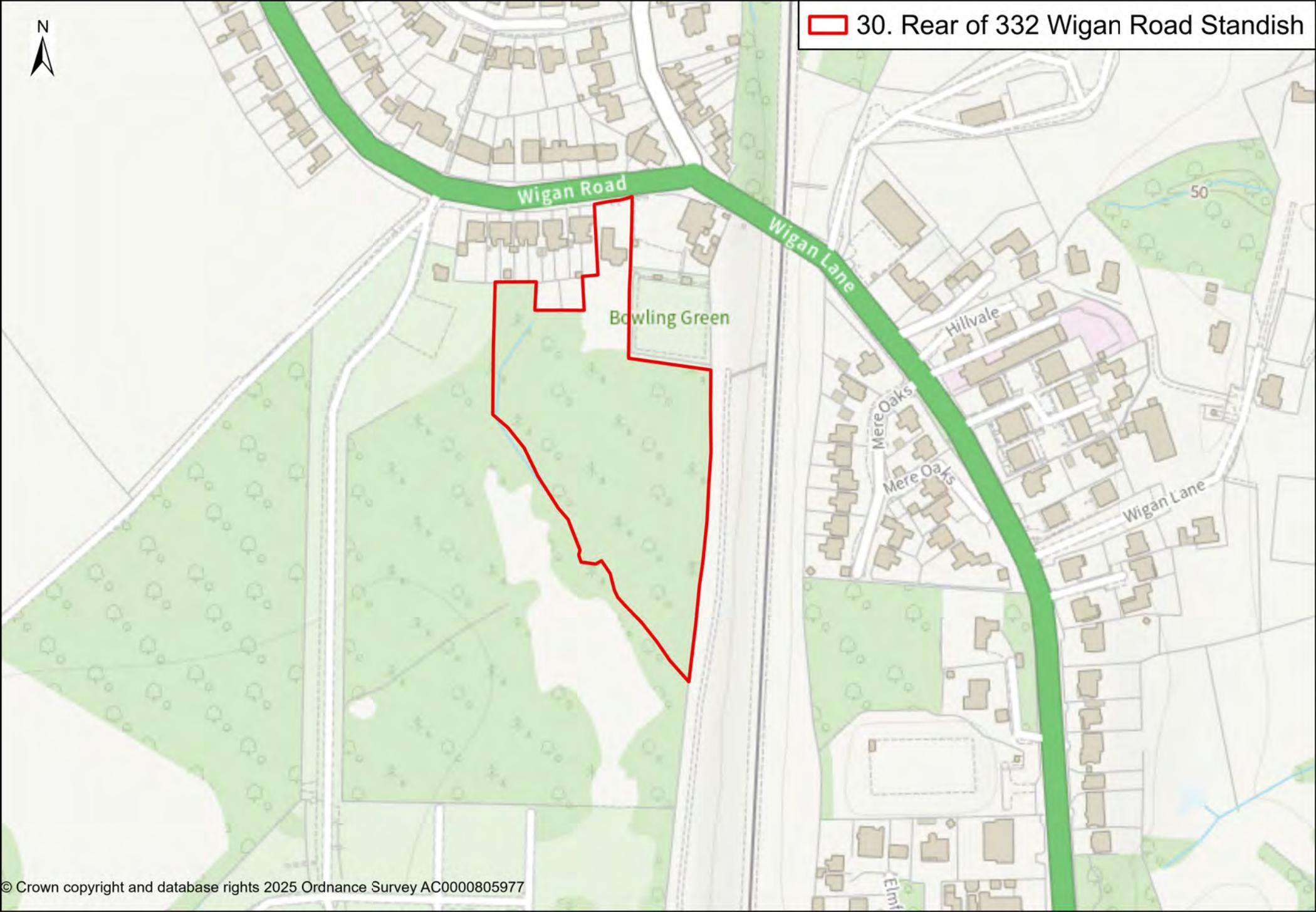


 29. Wigan Road (Boars Head) Standish





 30. Rear of 332 Wigan Road Standish





31. Land at Chorley Road Standish

County House

Lakeside  
Nursing Home

Worthington  
Reservoir

A5106

Brookside Road

Close

Close



 33. Arbor Lane Standish



Fairacres

Road

Hotel

Charnley Arms (PH)

Nursery

Pond

A5209

95.4m

Shevington Lane

A5209

Issues

Black Horse Croft

The Barn

Black Horse Farm

The Dairy

The Stables

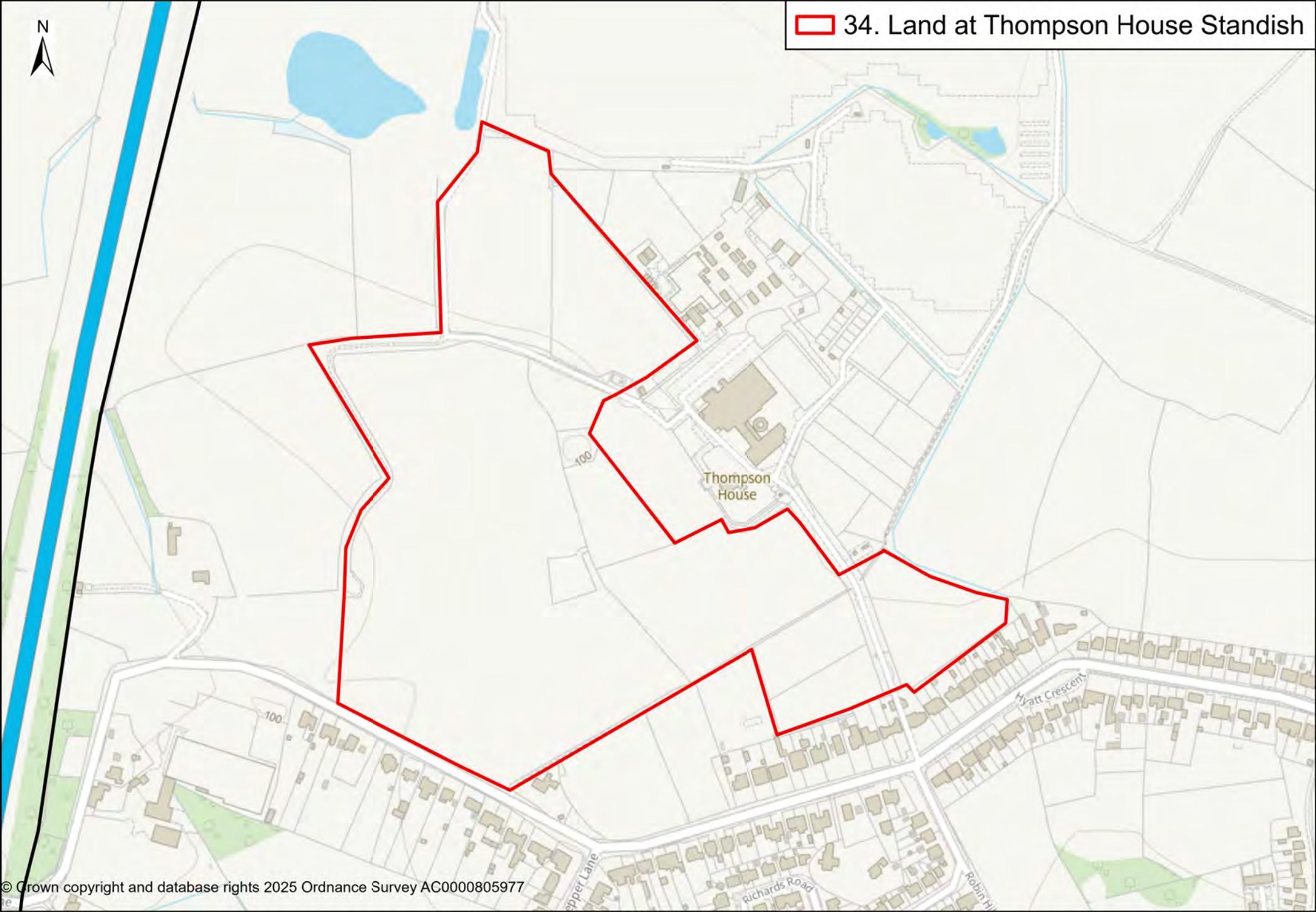
B 5206

94.8m

Arbour L.

Track

Dean Cottage



 34. Land at Thompson House Standish



Upper Lane

Richards Road

Robin Way

Hyatt Crescent



35. Land west of Old Pepper Lane

Boundary Lane

Old Pepper Lane

Chisholm Close

Harris Road

Robin Hill Drive

Douglas Road

Ribble Road

Meadowacre

Brookacre Close

Broadacre

Parkway

Hesketh Drive

Forest Drive

Whitacre

Oaklea

Brookfield Road

Rookery Fold

