

Davenham Habitat Bank

A Cheshire habitat bank restoring and expanding ancient woodland, hay meadow, ponds and orchards along a connected river valley landscape, supporting species including bats and the endangered White-letter Hairstreak

ABOUT THE SCHEME

The woodland forms part of the Weaver Valley/Newbridge Pool Local Wildlife Site, which includes Newbridge Wood Ancient Woodland. The bank also connects into a wider network of woodlands, marshy grassland and river habitats along the River Weaver.

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland is present across the site, and three woodland blocks (W2, W3 and W4) are identified as Ancient Woodland known as Eaton Bank Wood, an Irreplaceable Habitat. Woodland species include English oak, ash, silver birch, alder and crack willow, alongside ancient woodland indicator species including spindle and wood sedge.

Species Opportunity: White-letter Hairstreak and Local Bat Records

The site has onsite records of White-letter Hairstreak butterflies (endangered), and elm species (including resistant cultivars) are incorporated into habitats to safeguard this species given wider declines linked to Dutch elm disease.

Protected and notable species records in the local area include bats such as common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat and noctule, with suitable habitat on site for foraging, commuting and roosting.

Land Management and Long-Term Delivery

This is a long-term scheme commitment from its owners, designed to support public engagement and nature recovery, and aligned with emerging priorities in the Cheshire & Warrington Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

The management plan covers 2025–2055 (update in 2030). During establishment (years 1–5), monitoring reports are submitted annually, reducing to every five years thereafter. The plan's stated aim is to create a mosaic of habitats, grassland, scrub, ponds and woodland, increasing wildlife opportunities within a well-connected landscape.

SCHEME BNG

Status:

Taking Allocations
Cheshire West and Chester LPA
Shropshire, Cheshire &
Staffordshire Plain (NCA)
Approved via Section 106

CONTACT

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HABITATS AVAILABLE

Broad Habitat	Metric Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition
Woodland and Forest	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Very High	Moderate
Grassland	Other neutral grassland (hay meadow)	Medium	Good
Shrub	Mixed scrub	Medium	Moderate
Cropland	Traditional orchard	High	Moderate
Urban / Trees	Individual trees (rural)	High	Moderate
Wetland	Pond	High	Moderate
Shrub	Bramble scrub	Medium	Poor
Open Habitat	Bare ground (footpath areas)	Low	Poor

TOWNS & CITIES

- Chester
- Ellesmere Port
- Northwich
- Winsford
- Neston
- Frodsham

NCAS

- Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain
- Cheshire Sandstone Ridge
- Mersey Valley
- Wirral

LPAS

- Halton Borough LPA
- Warrington Borough LPA
- Cheshire East LPA
- Flintshire County LPA
- Wrexham County LPA
- Shropshire LPA
- Wirral LPA

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