

**REPORT FROM:** HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES  
MANAGER

**TO:** COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 4 JULY 2019

**Report Author:** Tricia Wilson  
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## ENVIRONMENTAL BLIGHT

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report any new environmental blight sites and provide updates on existing sites.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That members note the report.
- (2) That members report any new environmental blight sites to the Housing, Health and Engineering Manager for inclusion in future reports including a contact name and contact details with a brief description of the site and problem.

### REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To deal with environmental blight in the area.

### ISSUE

1. The definition of environmental blight is:
  - Untidy/derelict piece of Council land requiring tidying up.
  - Untidy/derelict piece of unregistered land requiring tidying up.
  - Untidy/derelict piece of **Council-owned or unregistered land** which needs a scheme to regenerate the site (eg a former garage colony converted to a landscaped parking area).

Private pieces of land requiring tidying are best not dealt with under environmental blight as they may require enforcement. These should be reported to Planning and Building Control to be included on the Problem Buildings List for Section 215 enforcement if the problem is persistent.

2. Any new sites should be reported to Tricia Wilson or Julie Whittaker including a contact name and contact details, exact location and a brief description of the site and the problem.
3. Plans and photographs of the sites will only be included for new sites unless clarification is needed.
4. Please see table below.

Site	Owner	Issue	Area Committee Resolution	Current Position
a) Land off Skipton Road roundabout	Part LCC and part Unregistered	In March 2016 Horsfield ward councillors contacted Neighbourhood Services to establish what could be done about the land at Skipton Road roundabout as it looked untidy and yet was an important gateway into Colne	The site was cut back and tidied and it was agreed that Environmental Services would maintain the site under the County Highways Maintenance scheme	<p>The unregistered section of the land is too steep for regular maintenance. In 2017 a proposal was put forward to sow wildflower seeds on the unregistered, steep section of land as it would only require one cut per annum and spot weed kill to keep tidy</p> <p>Following investigations we contacted LCC Estates to establish if they had records showing whether the land belonged to them. At first they said they had no records to say the land was theirs</p> <p>However, after making further enquiries with our Property Services into landownership or responsibility, Property Services pointed out that if the land was acquired to create the roundabout would this not put it in LCC's responsibility? The question was raised with LCC Estates Department</p> <p>Pendle Council Engineers recently met with LCC on site following confirmation from LCC Estates Department that the site probably is the responsibility of LCC after all. At the site visit it was agreed that LCC would allow Pendle Council to clear the site which has become overgrown with weeds and brambles again and sow wildflowers if they still wished to do so</p> <p>If members would like to pursue this they would need funding to clear the site in the first instance and for the wildflower sowing. In addition, we would need to re-establish with Environmental Services that they would maintain the site once it is planted with wildflowers (see attached photographs showing the current condition)</p> <p>LCC gave permission that once improved they would be happy to add the site to the Environmental Services list as part of the regular County Highways Maintenance regime. Engineers to discuss this with Environmental Services in the</p>

Site	Owner	Issue	Area Committee Resolution	Current Position
				first instance

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** None arising directly from the report.

**Financial:** No new financial implications arise from this report. Any action proposed that has additional financial implications would be the subject of a further report. There is no specific allocation for environmental blight sites.

**Legal:** None arising directly from the report.

**Risk Management:** None arising directly from the report.

**Health and Safety:** These issues will be considered when the schemes are progressed.

**Sustainability:** This will be considered for each individual scheme. Long-term maintenance may be an issue.

**Community Safety:** This will be considered for each individual scheme.

**Equality and Diversity:** This will be considered for each individual scheme.

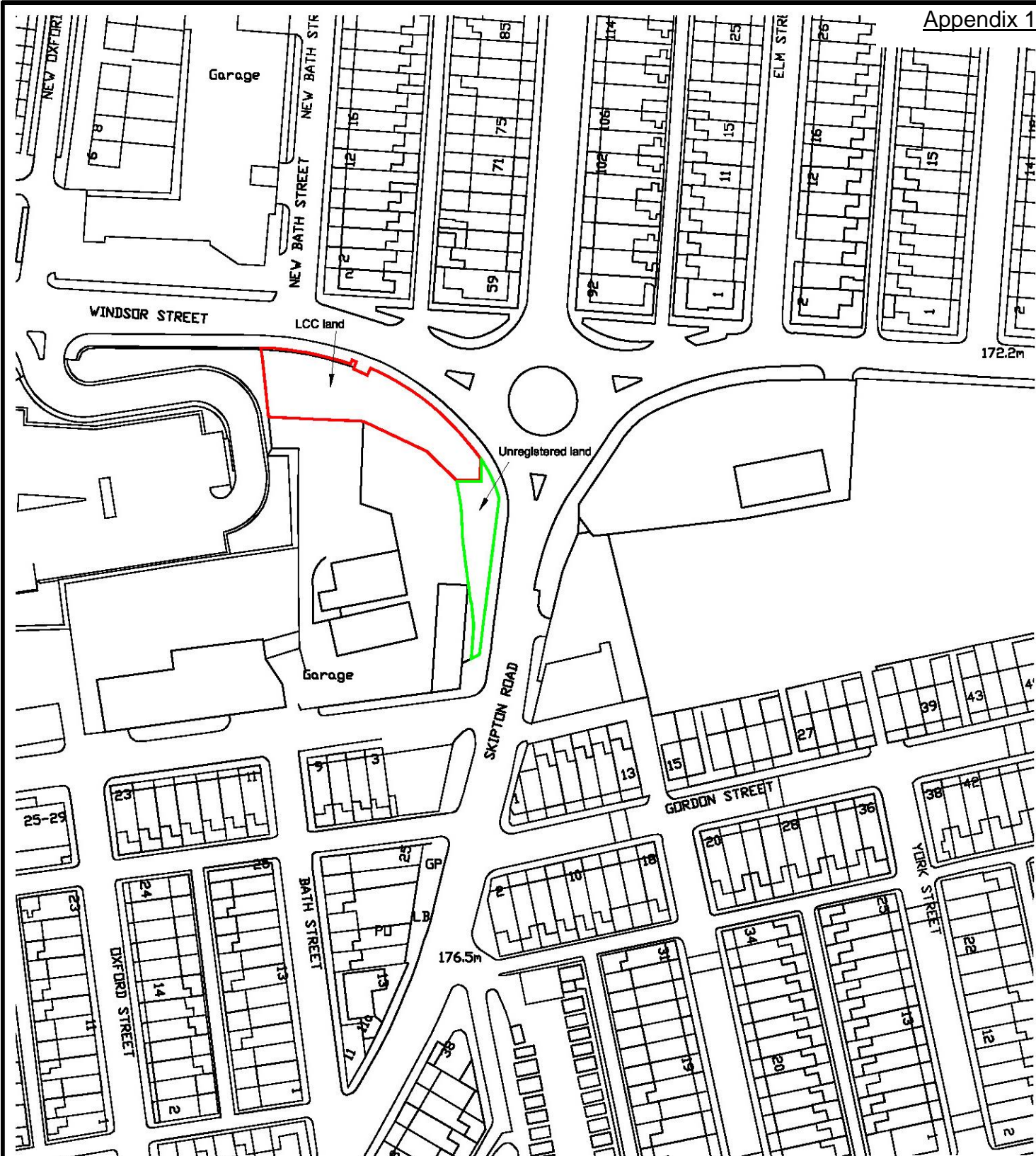
## APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Skipton Road Roundabout Site Plan Showing Registered and Unregistered Land.

Appendix 2: Skipton Road Roundabout Photographs.

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

**Engineering and Special Projects**

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DRAWING NO

**PROJECT**

Environmental Blight report

**DESCRIPTION**

Land at Skipton Rd/Windsor Street, Colne

**SCALE**

1:1,250

**DRAWN BY**

TW

**DATE**

July 2012

**Revisions**

No.	Detail	Date

**Borough of**  
**Pendle**



**Land at Skipton Road Roundabout – Photographs**





