



Why did Friends of Carrington Moss **Walk for Nature**

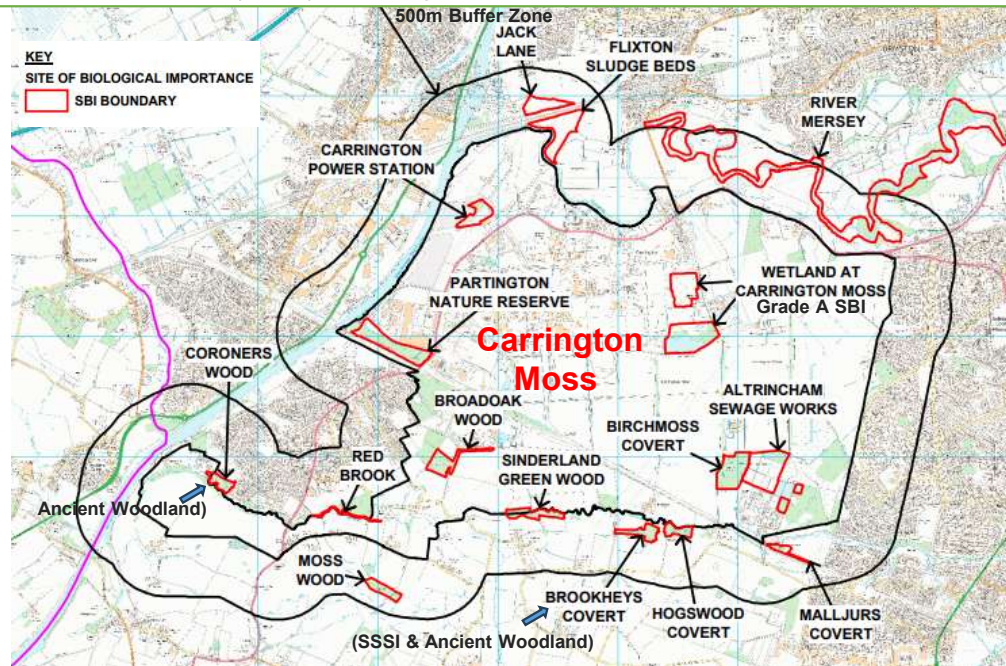
As part of the Community Planning Alliance
Day of Action
18th April 2026

Why do we want to save Carrington Moss?

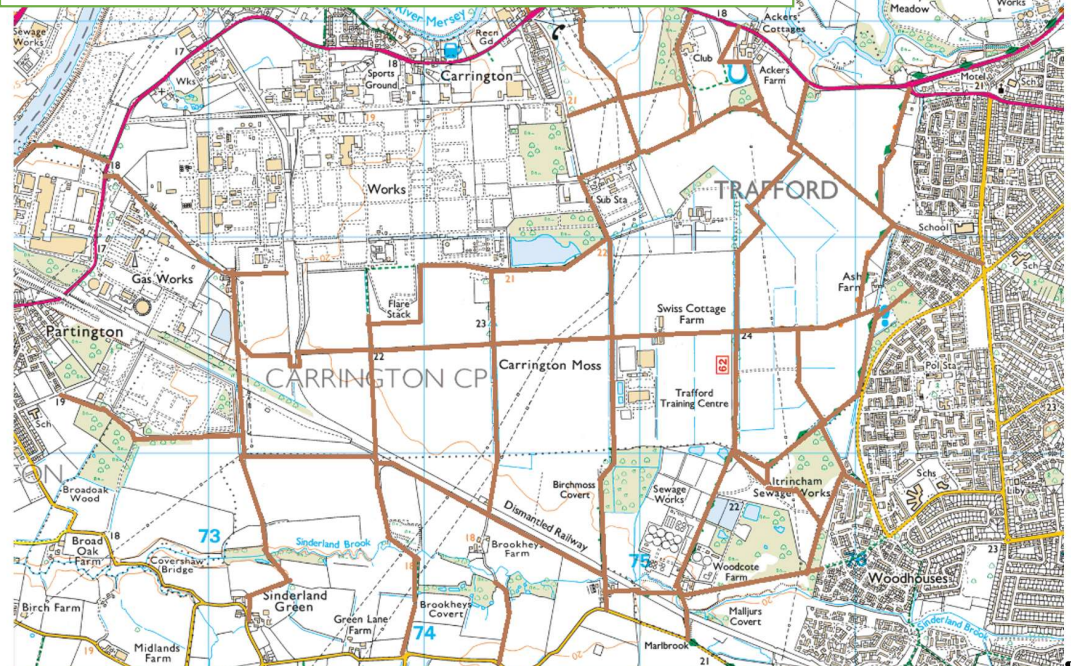
The site in Trafford with the most Natural Capital & Ecosystem Service benefits



Source: GMEU Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), showing 500m Buffer Zone



Source: Martin Hampar, Peak and Northern Footpath Society



A unique land area, extremely well-used by residents (including the vulnerable and those with Special Educational Needs), red listed birds and endangered wildlife. It currently comprises a 335-hectare peat moss (considered by Natural England to be a restorable irreplaceable habitat), productive Grade 2 agricultural land, woodland and wetland. Criss-crossed by footpaths and bridleways, it provides health and wellbeing benefits, including the hacking routes for the over 1,000 horses stabled in the area. There are 15 SBIs and an SSSI on and around the site, which will be severely impacted by the size and scale of the proposed development at New Carrington. It also captures and stores huge amounts of surface water, preventing local flooding at times of heavy rainfall.

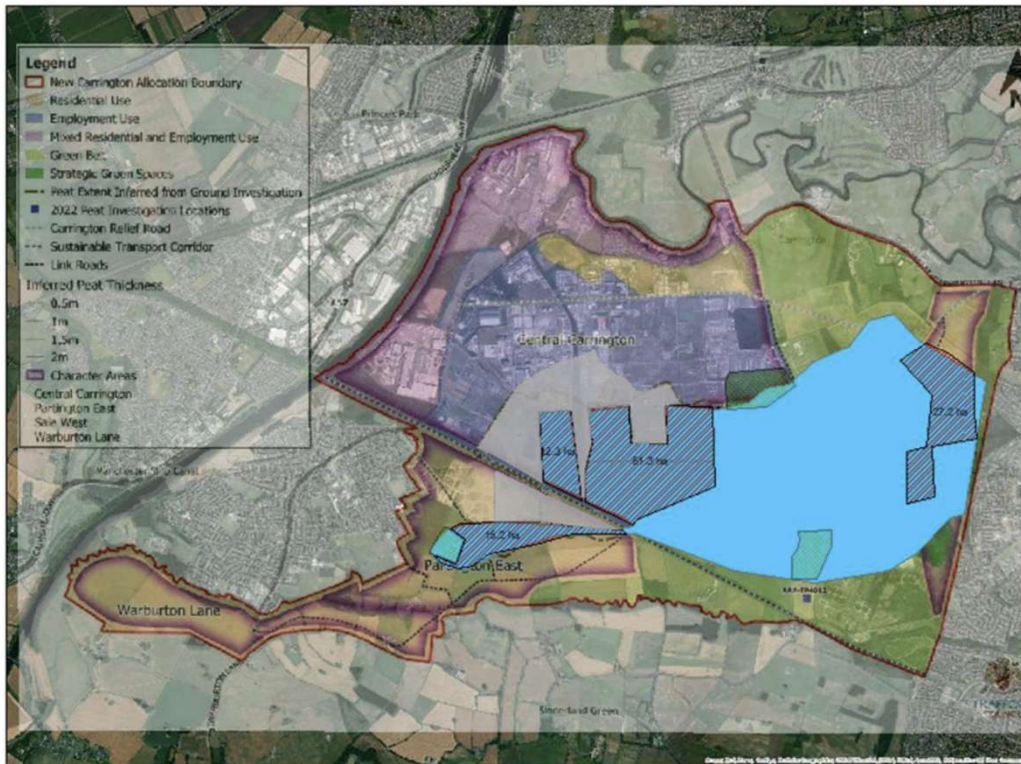
Natural England highlighted extensive harm

Very deep peat of between 1m and 3m in peat depths



In their letter to the Government's Planning Inspectors (30th June 2023) Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, highlighted the extensive harms to this restorable irreplaceable habitat (document OD42, Annex A, which shows the extent of restorable deep peat - 335 hectares)

Approximate areas of restorable peat within proposed land allocated for development (red hash over blue)



Legend

- Previously developed peat
- Restorable peat allocated for development (because this is on top of the blue the pattern looks blue)
- Relic wetland
- Restorable peat

The peat will be harmed directly by development and indirectly by drainage. Natural England say in their letter ***“Natural England considers that the combination of the location and the extent of development proposed for this allocation mean the proposed development could not be accommodated without at least causing the deterioration of this deep peat irreplaceable habitat at the site, if not its loss”***.

Trafford Acknowledges the harms to be caused

The UK Skylark population has declined by 63% since 1967



Photo credit: RSPB

The Carrington Relief Road Planning Application acknowledges that the eastern part of the road scheme will cause extremely significant losses of this already red-listed species.

The documentation notes that “*the habitats within the CRR corridor form one of the last contiguous open-field areas in this part of Trafford. Their loss will therefore contribute to a **Countyscale** decline in breeding opportunity for farmland birds, extending beyond the immediate footprint of the road*”.

The Carrington Relief Road will lead to the “*permanent loss and fragmentation of functional breeding habitat and consequent displacement of the local skylark population*”.

The proposed mitigation is minimal, with a proposal to eventually relocate the breeding and feeding ground for this renowned songbird to between two major roads that support over 30,000 vehicles a day, including over 3,000 HGVs. Their habitat, their young and the birds themselves will suffer from the effects of air, noise, light, vibration, dust and water pollution.

What Trafford is planning is Ecocide!

Total destruction of its Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services



On 18th April 2026, residents from communities encircling Carrington Moss came together to demonstrate how important this site is to their health and wellbeing, for nature, for food security, for the environment and for future generations.

Trafford recognises that this area is poorly served by public transport, yet, despite over 40% of residents in Partington and Sale West having NO access to a car, the new developments will be centred around 4 major new roads NOT public transport hubs!

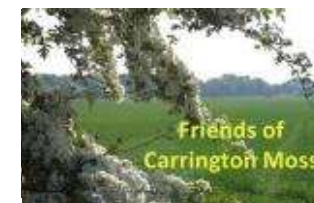
The community has identified alternative options to minimise the harms to be caused by development. Trafford has consistently ignored community feedback and is not considering those alternative proposals.

More residents will suffer from chronic health conditions to be caused by increased air, noise, light, vibration, dust and water pollution.



Populations of red listed birds and endangered wildlife will be further depleted as a consequence of the planned developments here.

Does Trafford Listen to its Communities?



Almost 10 years of constant campaigning for the protection of Carrington Moss

Date	Event	FOCM Responses (not including the numerous responses to planning applications over the years)
2016	GMCA published the first draft of the Gtr Mcr Spatial Framework for consultation	Residents living adjacent to Carrington Moss knew nothing about the plans to allocate 300 hectares of local Green Belt for development of 11,500 homes, 750,00m ² warehousing, there were no site notices, no letters to homes to advise them of the loss of green spaces and the increased industrialisation of the area
2017	Trespasser signage was erected on footpaths and bridleways on Carrington Moss in January 2017	Our first public meeting was held on 8 th February 2017 - it was attended by almost 100 people. The Friends of Carrington Moss was established by a number of passionate local residents who recognised the importance of the natural capital assets and the huge levels of harm to be caused by the proposed developments
2018	Trafford Local Plan Consultation	Detailed response to the Local Plan consultation, including a Call for Sites submission proposing the protection, preservation, conservation and restoration of Carrington Moss
2019	Gtr Mcr Spatial Framework (GMSF) Consultation	Very detailed response to the spatial plan consultation, including highlighting the importance of protecting, preserving and restoring Carrington Moss . At this point, the loss of Green Belt had been reduced to 240 hectares, the number of homes proposed reduced to 10,000 and the amount of warehousing space increased to 900,000m ²
2021	Trafford Local Plan Consultation	Detailed response to the Local Plan consultation, including requesting that the following statement be added to the carbon neutral vision " Trafford's peat mosses at Carrington and Warburton will be preserved and restored to maximise carbon sequestration and support achievement of our aim to be carbon neutral by 2038 ".
2021	Places for Everyone Consultation	Very detailed response to the spatial plan consultation, including challenging the sustainability of development on a peat moss, Grade 2 agricultural land, woodland and wetland habitats . The loss of Green Belt was reduced to 169 hectares, the number of homes to 5,000 and the space for warehousing to 380,000m ²
2025	Trafford Local Plan Consultations (April and September)	Detailed response to the Local Plan consultations, including a Call for Sites submission which recognised that 19.9 hectares of very deep peat had already been approved for development and requesting that the remainder of the 335 hectare peat moss be protected to minimise harm as required by the Places for Everyone Policies.

How have Local Residents Responded?

Trafford consistently ignores resident feedback and alternative options



2019 Greater Manchester Spatial Plan (Reg 19) Consultation **83%** disagreed/mostly disagreed with the proposals (867 responses relating to New Carrington) – this feedback was ignored!

Carrington Relief Road Public Consultation 2025 (751 responses), almost **77%** are not in favour of the road – this feedback was ignored!

Question 1 – Are you in favour of the proposed relief road?

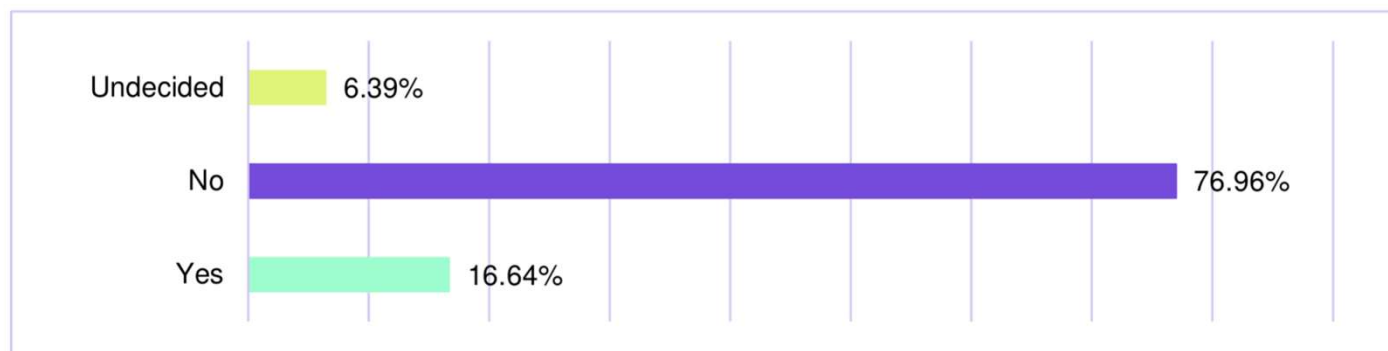


Figure 12 Q1 response

Carrington Relief Road Planning Application Consultation 2026 (770 representations) **98.3%** object to the scheme – will Trafford now consider our alternative proposal?

Sustainable Development

What does it really mean?



Just a reminder about the words from the NPPF:

“At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

So perhaps what we should be asking ourselves is – are there other places in Trafford where we can:

- restore peat to more effectively capture carbon and alleviate surface water risks, so we can support zero carbon goals and residents are not fearful of flooding every time it rains?
- grow crops and experience no vehicle traffic, so our descendants have fresh food, with a low carbon footprint, and our children and grandchildren can breathe cleaner air?
- increase the populations of red listed birds and endangered wildlife, so we can help nature’s recovery, increase biodiversity and mitigate the impact of climate change?
- approve development that will have less access to sustainable passenger and freight transport options?

If the answer is “No” to one or more of these questions, we should not be building on Carrington Moss!



A small selection of photographs from the community

Demonstrating how important this site is to local residents

↓ **THIS** IS AT RISK FROM DEVELOPMENT ↓



Carrington Moss so much flora and fauna to see on every visit
Janet Turnbull (18th April 2026)

Keir Starmer: "We're not going to plough through farmland" (2026); "We'll prioritise ugly, disused 'grey belt' land" (2024); "It's brownfield first. We're not going to build all over the countryside. That's nonsense. Of course nobody wants to do that."

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Carrington Moss wonderful, whatever the season
Tony Shearwood (18th April 2026)

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The peat is typically kept wet due to the extensive surface water flooding
Lorraine Eagling (18th April 2026)

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Carrington Moss is a source of amazing photograph opportunities
Karen Worsley (18th April 2026)

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Carrington Moss is very popular for community walks and events
Barbara Blaber (18th April 2026)

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Carrington Moss has an amazing array of flora and fauna
Janet Turnbull (18th April 2026)

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Whatever the season, our local ecosystem is working for us
Grace Vail and Matt Palmer (18th April 2026)

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Carrington Moss - so many different scenes
Debra Simmons (18th April 2026)

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Day or Night – there are wonderful sights on Carrington Moss
Joanne Baker (18th April 2026)

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Dog walking is another favourite past time on Carrington Moss
Liz Osler and Pamela Carraher (18th April 2026)

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There are over 1,000 horses stabled on and around Carrington Moss
Michelle Gillard-Swann & Claire Gooch (18th April 2026)

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Why does Trafford want to destroy land that is so valuable to local communities?
Caroline Dore (18th April 2026)

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Carrington Moss is important to local communities
Caroline Dore (18th April 2026)

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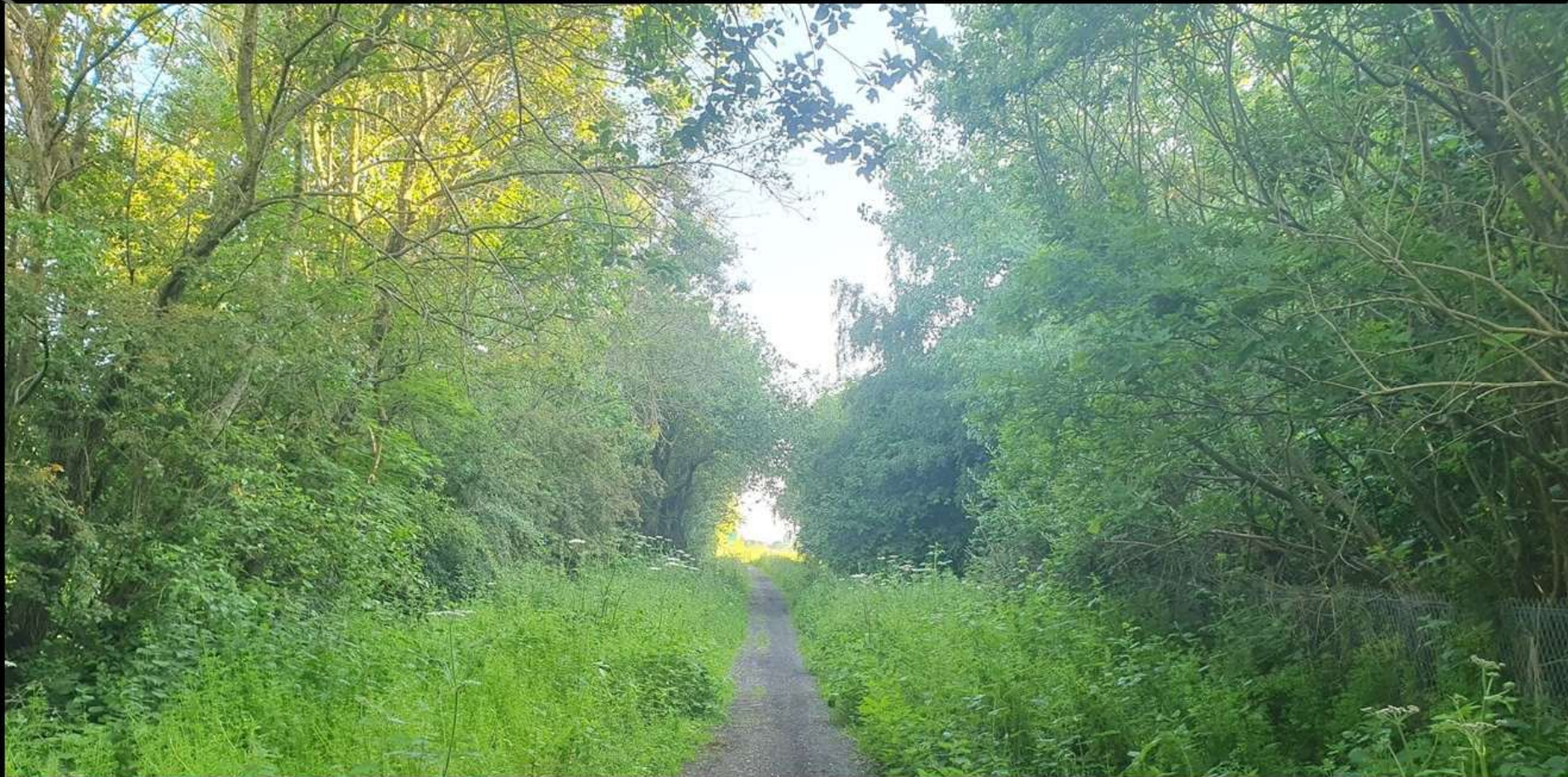
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