

Site Name: Sidings Lane Local Nature Reserve, Rainford

Site Area: 7.68 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SD463020

Date of Designation: May 1983 (MCC) **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 5

CITATION: Sidings Lane Local Nature Reserve is a former colliery site which is now dominated by birch woodland but also supports grassland and pond habitats. The site contains a large number of locally rare plant species and is important for Pipistrelle bats.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council in for selection of Local Sites. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1;	Rarity	1 priority BAP habitat; 1 priority Habitats Directive; 2 regionally important.
H2;	Diversity	12 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 4 regionally important; 32 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 205 plant species. One of 58 sites with 100 or more species.
SP3;	Naturalness	91.2% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	--
ANIMALS		
General		
SP5;	Rare/priority	--
Birds		
B1;	Non-breeding population	--
	Breeding population	--
B2;	Regional rare/scare	--
B3;	Breeding assemblage	--
B4;	Assemblage, breeding,	--
B5.	wintering, passage.	--
Dragonflies		
Od1.	Breeding	--
Od2.	Regional rare/scarce	--
Butterflies		
Bf1;	Region rare breeding	--
Bf2.	Breeding assemblage	--
Amphibians		
A1;	Rarity	--
A2.	Exceptional populations	--
Reptiles		
R1;	Population of native	--
R2;	species	--
	Exceptional population	--
Bats		
Bat1;	Roost	Guideline met - Pipistrelle bat.
Bat2.	Assemblage	--
Mammals		
Mam1.	Breeding	--

SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Local Site.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to December 2003 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

Status of features of nature conservation importance

Habitats

1 Priority BAP habitats	Unimproved neutral grassland
1 Priority Habitat Directive habitats	Unimproved neutral grassland
2 Regionally Important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Unimproved neutral grassland Standing water

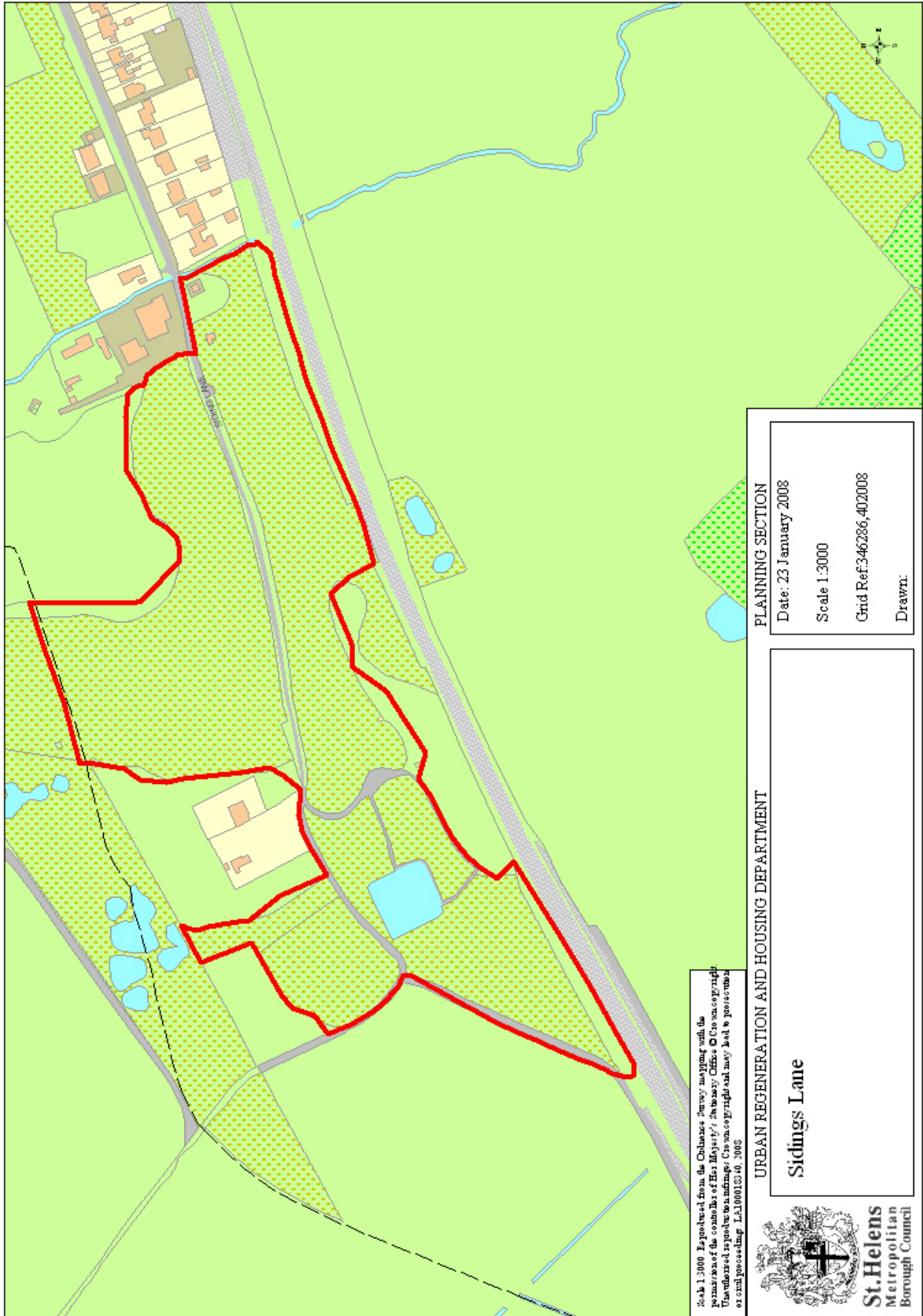
Plants

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species	English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)
1 Species of conservation concern (UK Biodiversity Action Plan species)	English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)
4 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)	English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>) Northern dock (<i>Rumex longifolius</i>), Common comfrey (<i>Symphytum officinale</i>), Black Bryony (<i>Tamus communis</i>)
32 Locally rare species	A moss (<i>Aulacomnium androgynum</i>) A moss (<i>Barbula cylindrica</i>) A moss (<i>Barbula fallax</i>) A moss (<i>Calypogeia muelleriana</i>), A moss (<i>Campylopus paradoxus</i>), Pale willowherb (<i>Epilobium roseum</i>), A moss (<i>Eurhynchium praelongum stokesii</i>), A moss (<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>), A moss (<i>Frullania dilatata</i>), Woodruff (<i>Galium odoratum</i>), A moss (<i>Grimmia pulvinata</i>), A hawkweed (<i>Hieracium sect. oreada</i>), A moss (<i>Hypnum cupressiforme var. cupressiforme</i>), A moss (<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>), Ragged-robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>), A liverwort (<i>Metzgeria fruticulosa</i>), A liverwort (<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>), Creeping forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis secunda</i>), Spiked Water-milfoil (<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>), A moss (<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>), A moss (<i>Plagiothecium succulentum</i>), A moss (<i>Plagiothecium undulatum</i>), A liverwort (<i>Radula complanata</i>), Greater spearwort (<i>Ranunculus lingua</i>), A moss (<i>Rhynchostegium murale</i>), Northern dock (<i>Rumex longifolius</i>), Almond willow (<i>Salix triandra</i>), Sanicle (<i>Sanicula europaea</i>), A moss (<i>Schistidium apocarpum agg.</i>), Black Nightshade (<i>Solanum nigrum</i>), A moss (<i>Tortula muralis</i>), A moss (<i>Ulota crispa var. norvegica</i>)

Animals

Mammals

1 Habitats Directive species	Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>)
1 Wildlife and Countryside Act - Schedule 5 species	Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>)



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PLANNING SECTION
 Date: 23 January 2008
 Scale 1:3000
 Grid Ref: 346286,402008
 Drawn:

URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT
Sidings Lane

