

Site Name: Eccleston Golf Course, West Ponds

Site Area: 0.72 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ484945

Date of Designation: December 2003 **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: n/a **Local Site Number:** 87

CITATION: A group of ponds with associated ditches within the rough area of the golf course. The ponds are surrounded by alder dominated scrub and woodland which contains English bluebell.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council 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 habitat; 1 regionally important habitat.
H2;	Diversity	9 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	31 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 Species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 35 plant species.
SP3;	Naturalness	97.14% 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	--
B2;	Breeding population	--
B3;	Regional rare/scare	--
B4;	Breeding assemblage	--
B5.	Assemblage, breeding, 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 species.	--
R2;	Exceptional population	--
Bats		
Bat1;	Roost	--
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.

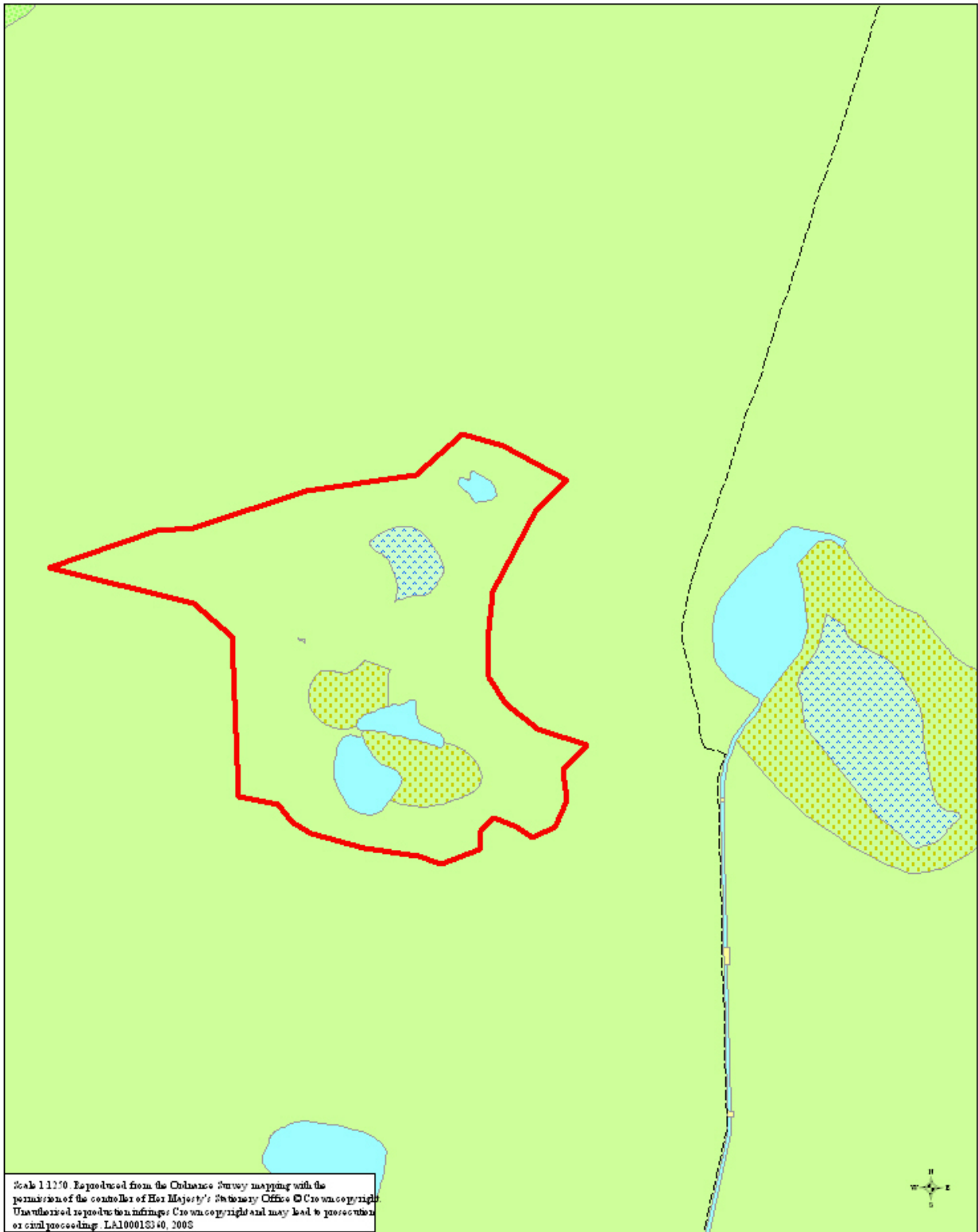
Status of feature of nature conservation importance

Habitats

1 Priority BAP habitat	Single species dominant swamp
1 Priority Habitats Directive habitat	Single species dominant swamp
1 Regionally Important Habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Standing water - pond

Plants

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species	English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)
1 Species of conservation concern	English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)
1 Regionally important species	English bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)



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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Eccleston Golf Course, west ponds

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 22 January 2008

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Grid Ref: 348402,394553

Drawn: