

**Site Name:** Plantation Copse and Ponds, Haydock

**Site Area:** 6.12 hectares      **National Grid Reference:** SJ572982

**Date of Designation:** December 1986 (part)      **District:** St. Helens

**Date of Last Revision:** December 2003      **Local Site Number:** 30

**CITATION:** A small mixed deciduous copse with ponds and rough grassland. The site contains a number of nationally, regionally and locally important habitats and plants. The ponds and surrounding habitats provide habitat for Great Crested Newts.

**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.

<b>Guideline</b>		<b>Comment</b>
<b>HABITATS</b>		
H1;	Rarity	2 Priority BAP habitats; 2 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 4 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	10 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 2 species of conservation concern; 4 regionally important species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 127 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	88.98% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	--
<b>ANIMALS</b>		
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	Guidelines met – Great Crested Newt.
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 features of nature conservation importance

#### Habitats

<b>2 Priority BAP habitats</b>	Swamp Unimproved neutral grassland
<b>2 Priority Habitats Directive habitats</b>	Swamp Unimproved neutral grassland
<b>4 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)</b>	Marshy grassland Swamp Standing water Unimproved neutral grassland

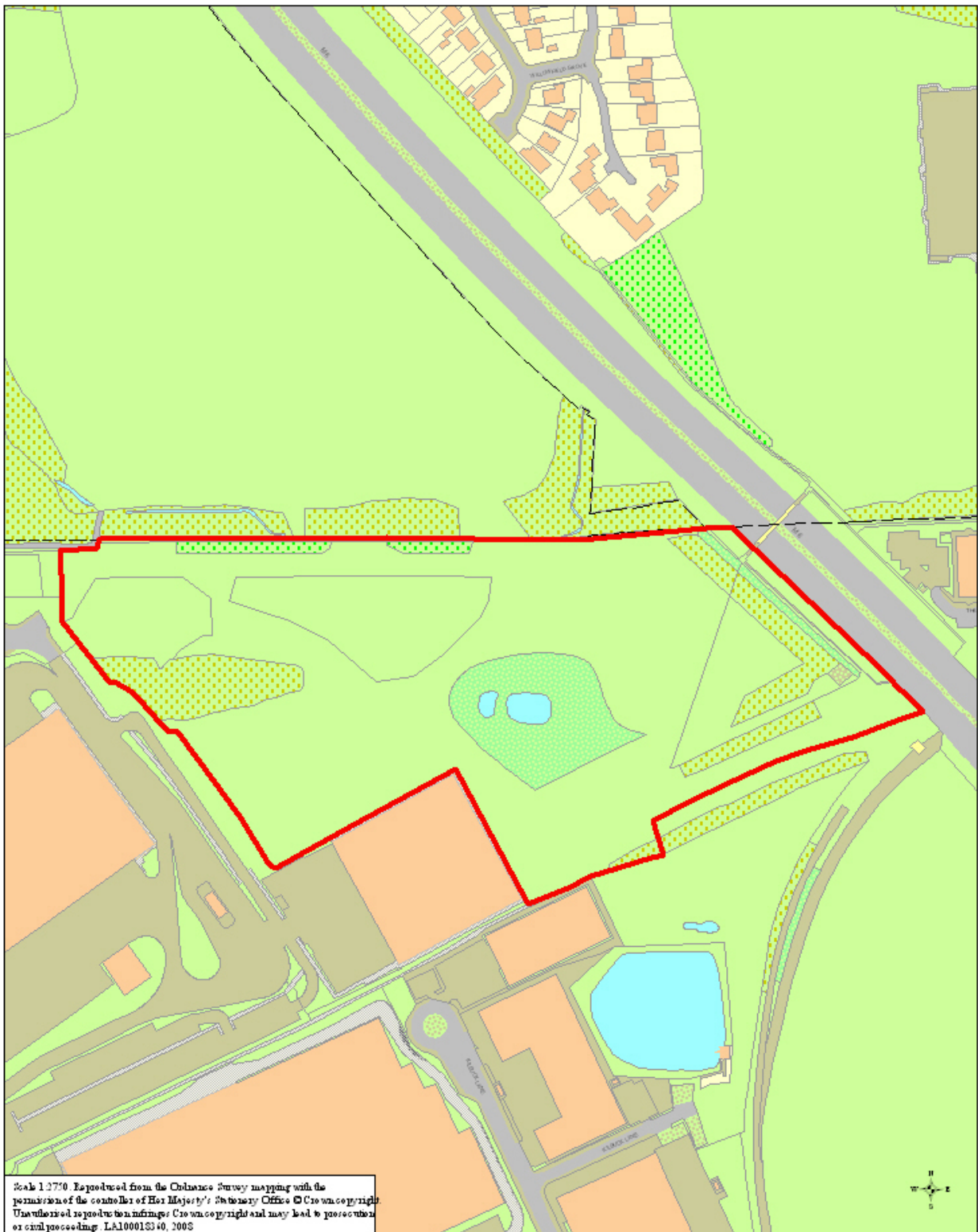
#### Plants

<b>1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species</b>	English bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> )
<b>2 Species of conservation concern (UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species)</b>	English bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> ) Western gorse ( <i>Ulex gallii</i> )
<b>4 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)</b>	Yellow-wort ( <i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i> ) English bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> ) Smooth tare ( <i>Vicia tetrasperma</i> ) Western gorse ( <i>Ulex gallii</i> )

#### Animals

##### **Amphibian**

<b>1 Habitats Directive species</b>	Great Crested newt ( <i>Triturus cristatus</i> )
<b>1 Wildlife and Countryside Act - Schedule 5 species</b>	Great Crested newt ( <i>Triturus cristatus</i> )



URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

**Plantation Copse and Ponds**

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 23 January 2008

Scale 1:2750

Grid Ref: 357202,398253

Drawn: