

**Site Name:** Fox Covert, including Cow Hey Dam

**Site Area:** 5.49 hectares      **National Grid Reference:** SJ588972

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

**Date of Last Revision:** N/A      **Local Site Number:** 44

**CITATION:** A semi-natural woodland and adjacent Cow Hey Dam. The woodland is dominated by oak and sycamore with a ground flora containing stands of English bluebell. The dam has extensive reed beds including Bulrush and Reed canary-grass.

**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	1 priority BAP habitat; 1 priority Habitats Directive habitat; 1 regionally important habitat.
H2;	Diversity	10 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species; 1 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 67 plant species.
SP3;	Naturalness	88.06% 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	--
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.

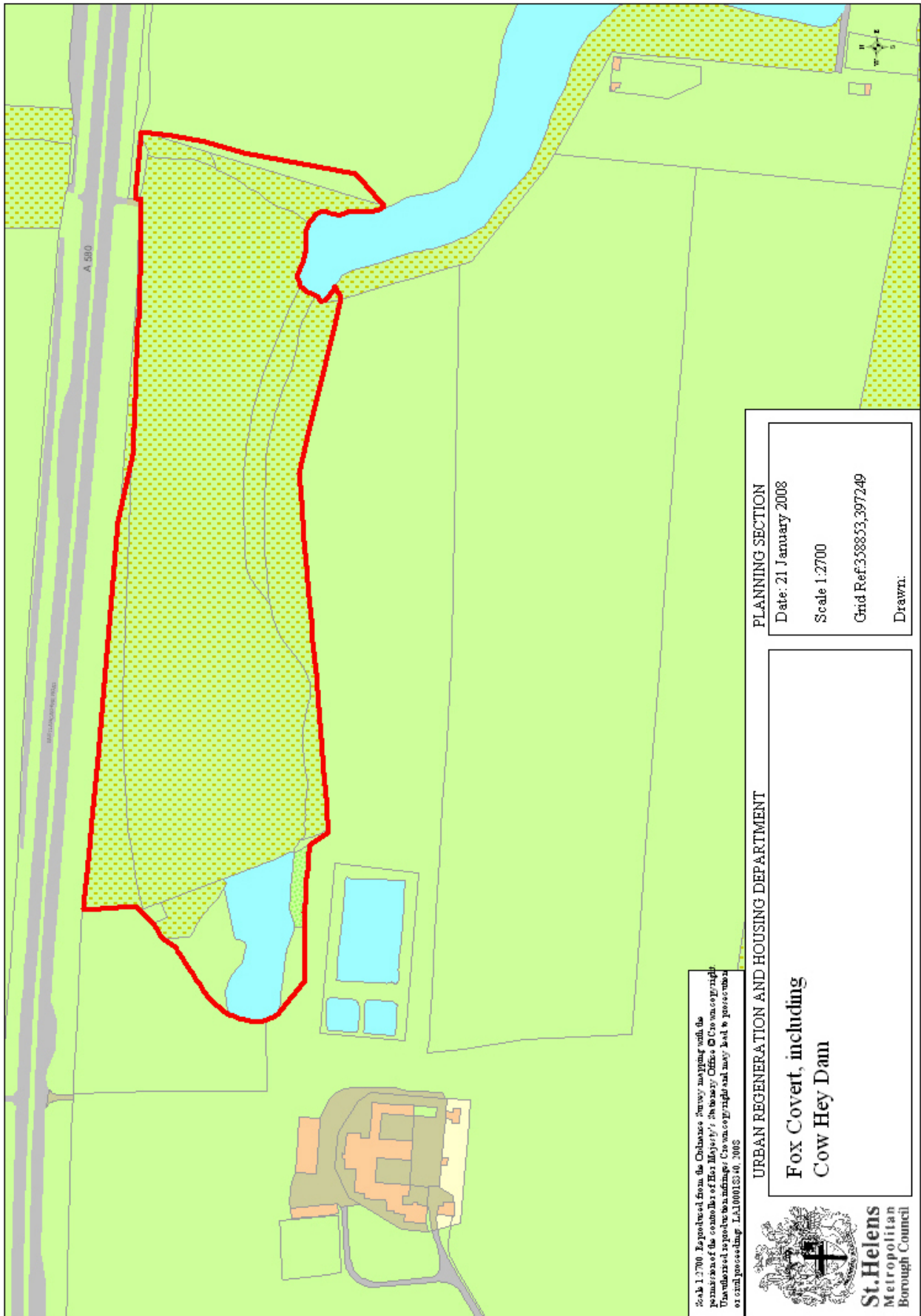
### **Status of features of nature conservation importance**

#### Habitats

<b>1 Priority BAP habitat</b>	Swamp
<b>1 Priority Habitats Directive habitat</b>	Swamp
<b>1 Regionally important habitat (North West Biodiversity Audit)</b>	Standing water - dam

#### Plants

<b>1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species</b>	English bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> )
<b>1 Species of conservation concern (UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species)</b>	English bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> )
<b>1 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)</b>	English bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> )
<b>1 Locally rare species</b>	Bearded Couch ( <i>Elymus caninus</i> )



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PLANNING SECTION

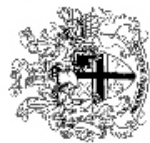
Date: 21 January 2008

Scale 1:2700

Grid Ref: 338853, 397249

Drawn:

**Fox Covert, including  
Cow Hey Dam**



**St. Helens**  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council