

Site Name: Sutton Brook

Site Area: 2.23 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ532935

Date of Designation: December 1986 **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 101

CITATION: A diverse stretch of Sutton Brook. Much of the diversity is as a result of part industrial use with leblanc waste forming parts of the banks of the brook in sections forming a mosaic of acid, neutral and alkaline grassland. The brook and its banks contain a number of regionally and locally important plant species as well as supporting a population of Water voles.

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; H2; H3; H4.	Rarity Diversity Nearness Isolation	-- 9 habitats recorded -- ?? sites within 1Km.
PLANTS		
SP1; SP2; SP3; SP4.	Rarity Diversity Naturalness Nationally Rare	3 regionally important species; 7 locally rare species Total of 140 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species. 93.57% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered. --
ANIMALS		
General SP5; Birds B1; B2; B3; B4; B5. Dragonflies Od1. Od2. Butterflies Bf1; Bf2. Amphibians A1; A2. Reptiles R1; R2; Bats Bat1; Bat2. Mammals Mam1.	Rare/priority Non-breeding population Breeding population Regional rare/scare Breeding assemblage Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage. Breeding Regional rare/scarce Region rare breeding Breeding assemblage Rarity Exceptional populations Population of native species. Exceptional population Roost Assemblage 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

Plants

2 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*)
Ploughman's- spikenard (*Inula conyzae*)
A moss (*Thlaspi arvense*)

4 Locally rare species

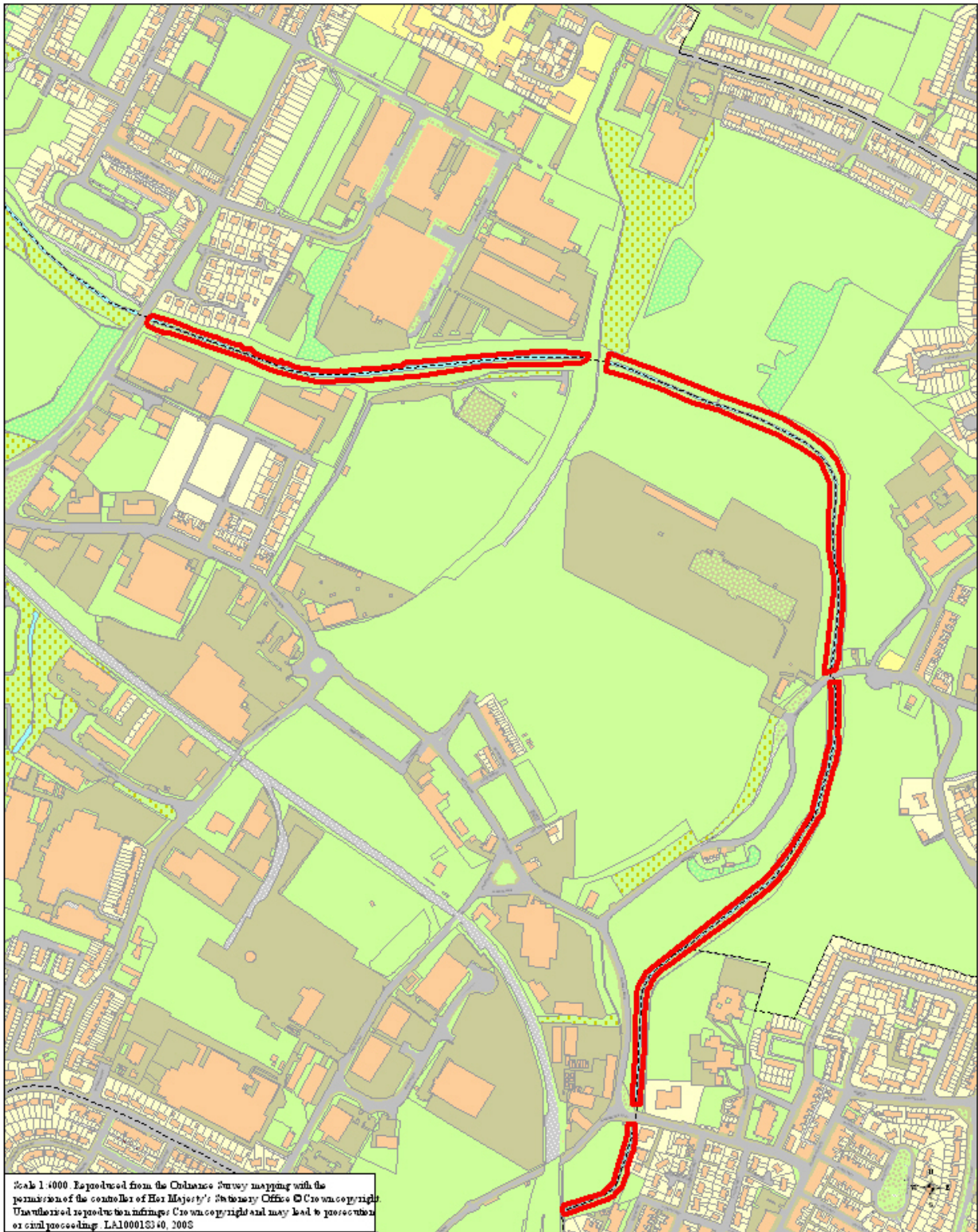
A liverwort (*Aneura pinguis*)
A moss (*Barbula fallax*)
Hoary Willowherb (*Epilobium parviflorum*)
Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*)
Ploughman's-spikenard (*Inula conyzae*)
A moss (*Thlaspi arvense*)
Common vetch subspecies (*Vicia sativa* Ssp. *nigra*)

Animals

Mammals

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species

Water vole (*Arvicola aquaticus*)



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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Sutton Brook

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 22 January 2008

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Grid Ref: 353279,394110

Drawn: