

Site Name: Barton Clough, Billinge

Site Area: 4.7 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SD544007

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

Date of Last Revision: n/a **Local Site Number:** 16

CITATION: Ancient semi-natural woodland which runs along the steep banks of a brook. The woodland is predominantly mature oak woodland with willows and alder in the damper sections by the brook. The woodland contains the only known badger sett site in St. Helens.

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; 1 locally uncommon habitat. |
| H2; | Diversity | 11 habitats recorded. |
| H3; | Nearness | -- |
| H4. | Isolation | -- |
| PLANTS | | |
| SP1; | Rarity | 1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species; 1 locally rare species. |
| SP2; | Diversity | Total of 76 plant species. |
| SP3; | Naturalness | 93.4% 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 | Guideline met - Badger |

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

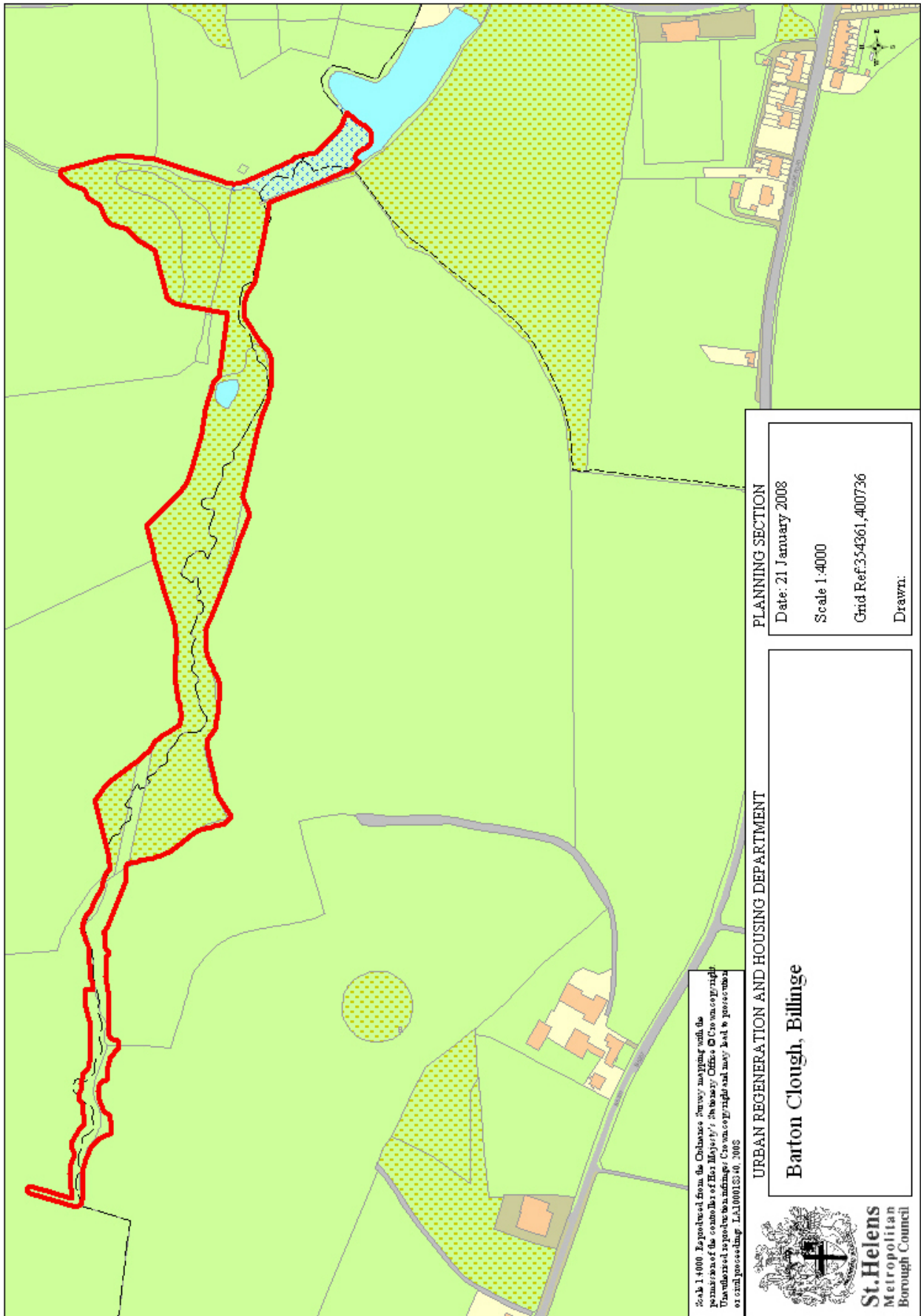
| | |
|--|--|
| 1 Priority BAP habitats | Swamp tall fen vegetation |
| 1 Priority Habitat Directive habitats | Swamp tall fen vegetation |
| 3 Regionally Important habitats | Swamp tall fen vegetation Marshy grassland Standing water - pond |

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>) |
| 1 Locally rare species | Common Cow-wheat (<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>) |

Animals

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Mammals Protection of Badgers Act, 1992 | Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>) |
|--|-------------------------------|



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PLANNING SECTION
 Date: 21 January 2008
 Scale 1:4000
 Grid Ref: 354361, 400736
 Drawn:

URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT
Barton Clough, Billinge

