

ite Name: Birchley Wood

Site Area: 3.54 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ522997

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

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 20

CITATION: Mature woodland containing a number of ponds and wetland habitats. The woodland supports a diverse ground flora including English bluebell and a number of regionally and locally important species.

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; 3 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	13 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	25 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species; 4 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 130 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	87.69% 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.

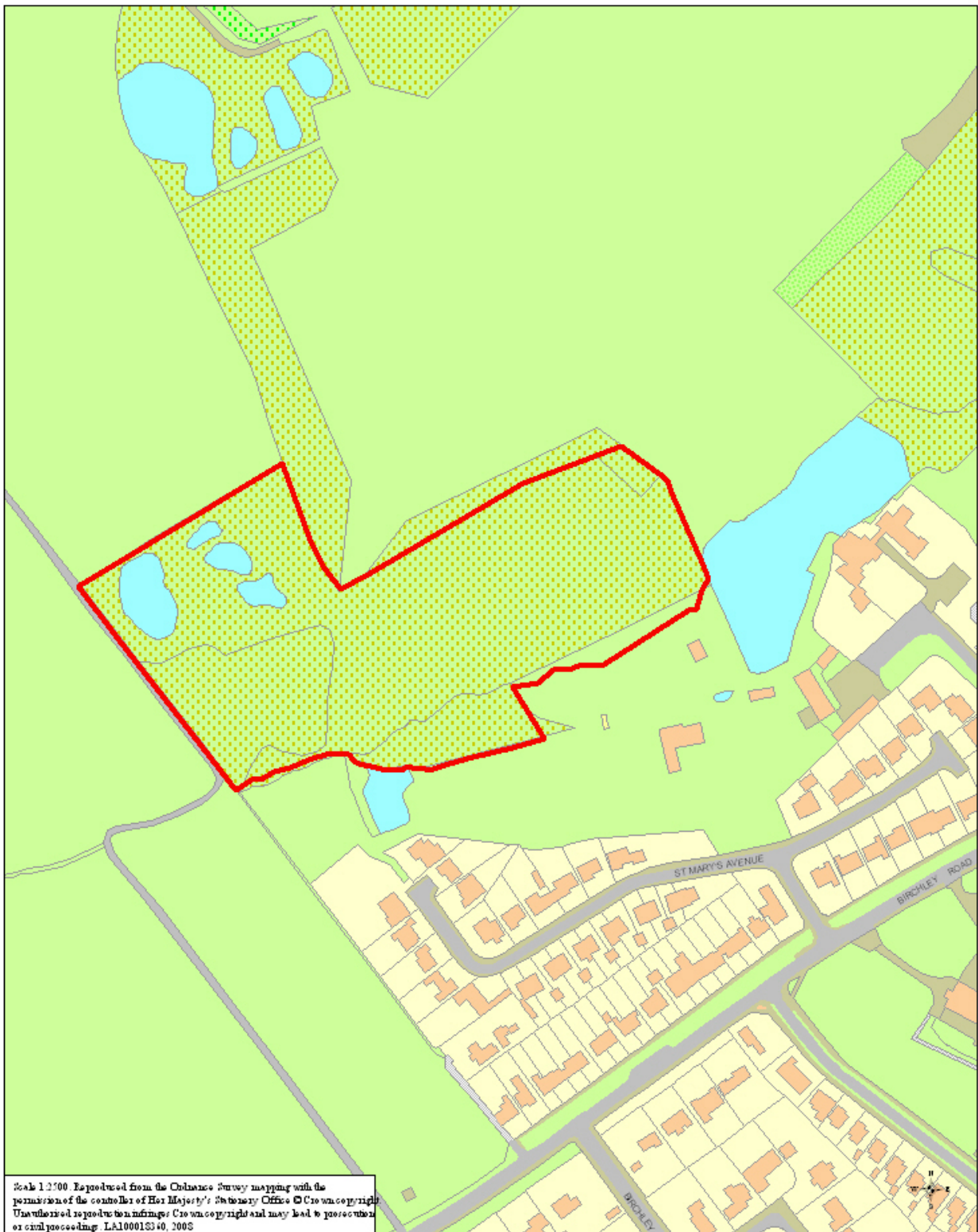
Status of features of nature conservation importance

Habitats

1 Priority BAP habitat	Unimproved neutral grassland
1 Priority Habitat Directive habitat	Unimproved neutral grassland
3 Regionally Important habitats	Unimproved neutral grassland 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>)
4 Locally rare species	Large Bitter-cress (<i>Cardamine amara</i>) Pill sedge (<i>Carex pilulifera</i>) Bulbous rush (<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>) Germander speedwell (<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>)



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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Birchley Wood

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 21 January 2008

Scale 1:2500

Grid Ref: 352188,399786

Drawn: