

Site Name: St. Helens Canal

Site Area: 3.20 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ534967

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

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 54

CITATION: A disused stretch of the St. Helens canal at the end of the Blackbrook branch. This section of the canal has extensive emergent vegetation and aquatic vegetation dominated by common reed and reedmace.

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	2 priority BAP habitats; 2 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 2 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	7 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	24 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 nationally rare species; 2 regionally important species; 4 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 115 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	90.43% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	<i>Rorippa islandica</i> – to be confirmed.
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		
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

2 Priority BAP habitats

Unimproved acid grassland
Marsh

2 Priority Habitat Directive habitats

Unimproved acid grassland
Marsh

2 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Unimproved acid grassland
Standing water

Plants

1 Nationally rare species

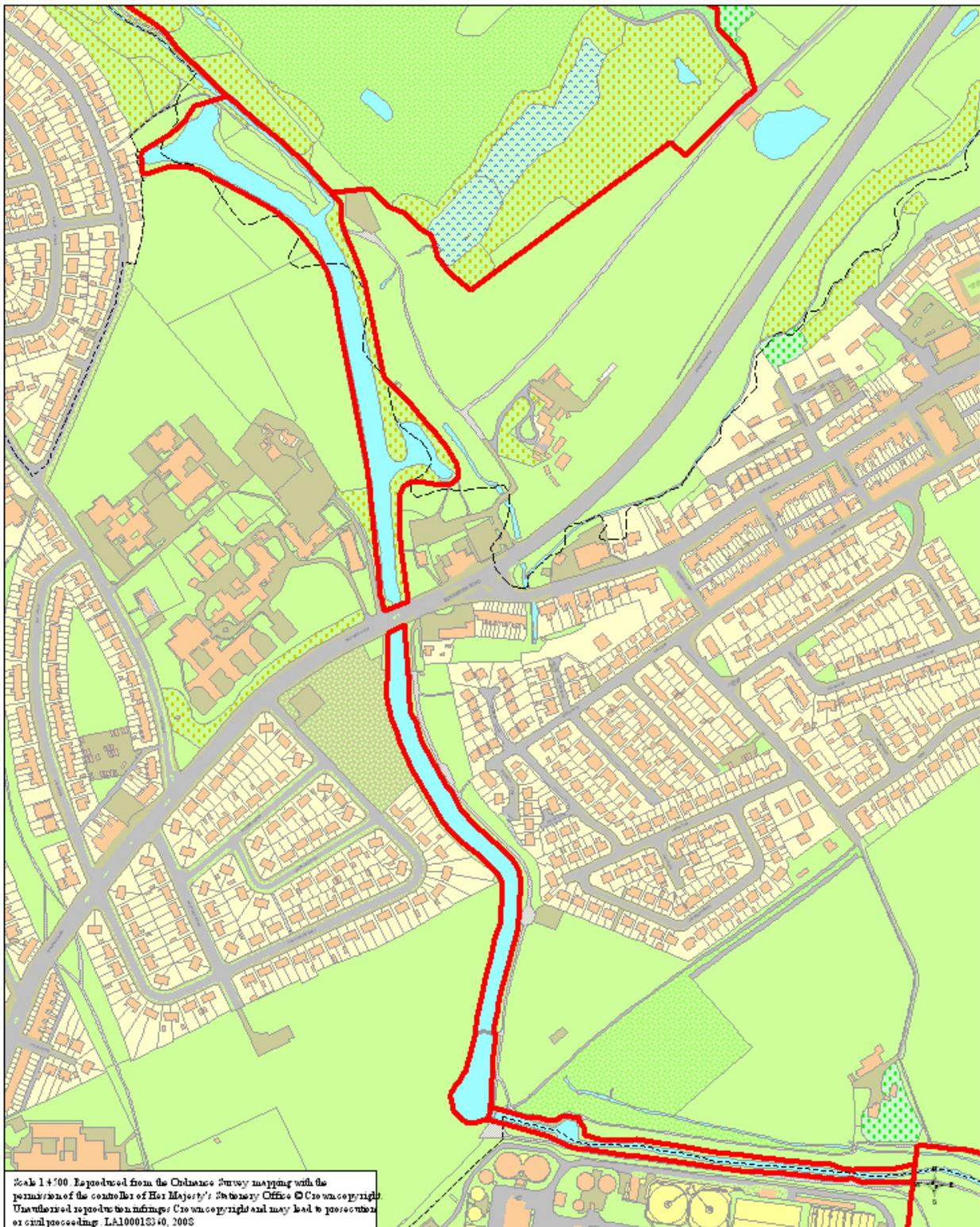
Northern Yellow-cress (*Rorippa islandica*)

2 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Rigid Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)
Bog Pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*)

4 Locally rare species

Various-leaved Water-starwort (*Callitriche sp. (platycarpa)*)
Crosswort (*Cruciata laevipes*)
Hoary Willowherb (*Epilobium parviflorum*)
Bog Pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*)



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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

St Helens Canal

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 21 January 2008

Scale 1:4500

Grid Ref: 353549,396555

Drawn: