

Site Name: Castle Hill

Site Area: 5.9 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ595962

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

Date of Last Revision: N/A **Local Site Number:** 59

CITATION: A sandstone hill which is an ancient motte site. The site is predominantly grassland with many orchids. At the foot of the hill a swamp area has developed which is dominated by 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.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1;	Rarity	2 priority BAP habitats; 2 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 2 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	9 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	18 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	--
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 31 plant species.
SP3;	Naturalness	94% 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

2 Priority BAP habitats

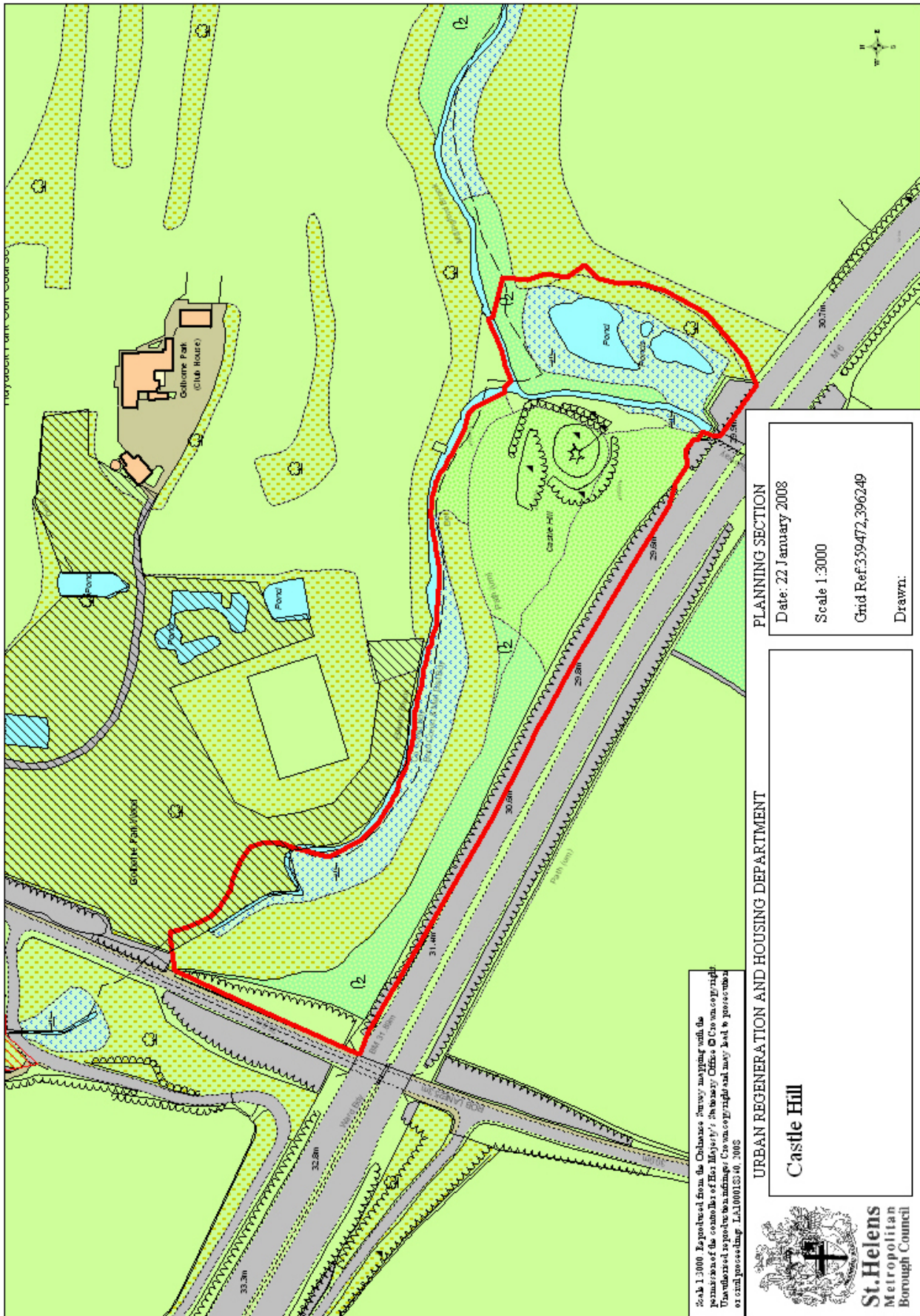
Unimproved neutral grassland
Single species dominant swamp

2 Priority Habitats Directive habitats

Unimproved neutral grassland
Single species dominant swamp

2 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Unimproved neutral grassland
Acid natural rock exposure



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PLANNING SECTION
 Date: 22 January 2008
 Scale 1:3000
 Grid Ref: 359472, 396249
 Drawn:

URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT
Castle Hill

