

**Site Name:** Mucky Mountains

**Site Area:** 4.76 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ575945

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

**Date of Last Revision:** December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 88

**CITATION:** A disused alkali waste mound on the edge of Sankey Valley. The site comprises of a mosaic of grassland types, including acid, neutral and calcareous grassland. The calcareous grassland closely resembles limestone grassland with species such as Quaking grass, Red fescue and Carnation sedge. The site contains a high number of regionally and locally rare 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.

<b>Guideline</b>		<b>Comment</b>
<b>HABITATS</b>		
H1;	Rarity	3 priority BAP habitats; 3 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 2 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	12 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	25 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	1 nationally scarce species; 7 regionally important species; 18 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 188 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	84.57% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	--
<b>ANIMALS</b>		
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

##### **3 Priority BAP habitats**

Unimproved acid grassland  
Unimproved neutral grassland  
Unimproved calcareous grassland

##### **3 Priority Habitat Directive habitats**

Unimproved acid grassland  
Unimproved neutral grassland  
Unimproved calcareous grassland

##### **2 Regionally Important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)**

Unimproved acid grassland  
Unimproved neutral grassland

#### Plants

##### **1 Nationally scarce species**

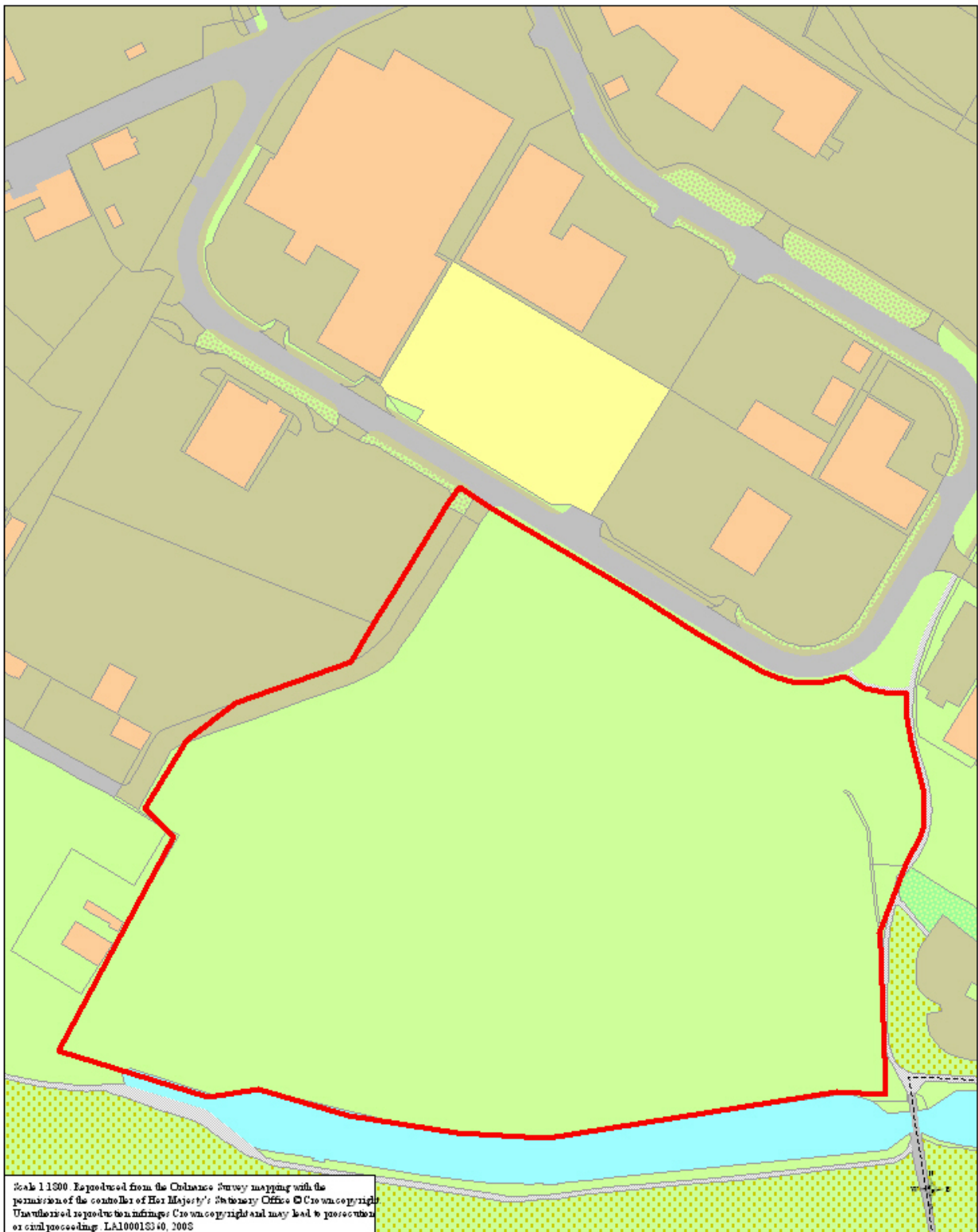
Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*)


##### **7 Regionally important species**

Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*)  
Red Goosefoot (*Chenopodium rubrum*)  
Bloody Crane's-bill (*Geranium sanguineum*)  
Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*)  
Common comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)  
Lesser Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum minus*)  
Spring Vetch (*Vicia lathyroides*)

##### **18 Locally rare species**

Pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*)  
False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*)  
Quaking oat-grass (*Briza media*)  
A moss (*Campyllum chrysophyllum*)  
Sand sedge (*Carex arenaria*)  
Red Goosefoot (*Chenopodium rubrum*)  
Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*)  
Common Whitlowgrass (*Erophila verna*)  
Petty Spurge (*Euphorbia peplus*)  
Eyebright species (*Euphrasia rostkoviana* agg.)  
Bloody Crane's-bill (*Geranium sanguineum*)  
Common twayblade (*Listera ovata*)  
Spring Sedge (*Minuartia verna*)  
A moss (*Rhynchostegiella tenella*)  
Bay Willow (*Salix pentandra*)  
Hoary Ragwort (*Senecio erucifolius*)  
Lesser Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum minus*)  
Spring Vetch (*Vicia lathyroides*)



 <p><b>St. Helens</b> Metropolitan Borough Council</p>	<p>URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT</p> <p><b>Mucky Mountains</b></p>	<p>PLANNING SECTION</p> <p>Date: 22 January 2008</p> <p>Scale 1:1800</p> <p>Grid Ref: 357458,394535</p> <p>Drawn:</p>