

Site Name: Depot, Rainford

Site Area: 12.57 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SD460003

Date of Designation: April 1994 **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: December 2003 **Local Site Number:** 17

CITATION: This depot contains a range of habitats including woodland, grassland and wetland habitats. The site provides habitat for Red squirrels and contains several nationally and locally uncommon plant 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	2 priority BAP habitats; 2 priority Habitat Directive habitats; 3 Regionally important; 1 locally uncommon.
H2;	Diversity	15 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	5 sites within 1Km.
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 nationally rare species; 1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species; 3 locally uncommon species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 121 plant species. One of 58 sites with 100 or more species.
SP3;	Naturalness	87.6% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered.
SP4.	Nationally Rare	1 – <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		
R1;	Population of native species.	--
R2;	Exceptional population	--
Bats		
Bat1;	Roost	--
Bat2.	Assemblage	--
Mammals		
Mam1.	Breeding	Guideline met – Red squirrel.

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 Swamp
2 Priority Habitat Directive habitats	Unimproved neutral grassland Swamp
3 Regionally Important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Mixed semi-natural woodland Unimproved neutral grassland Standing water - pond
1 Locally uncommon habitat	Mixed semi-natural woodland

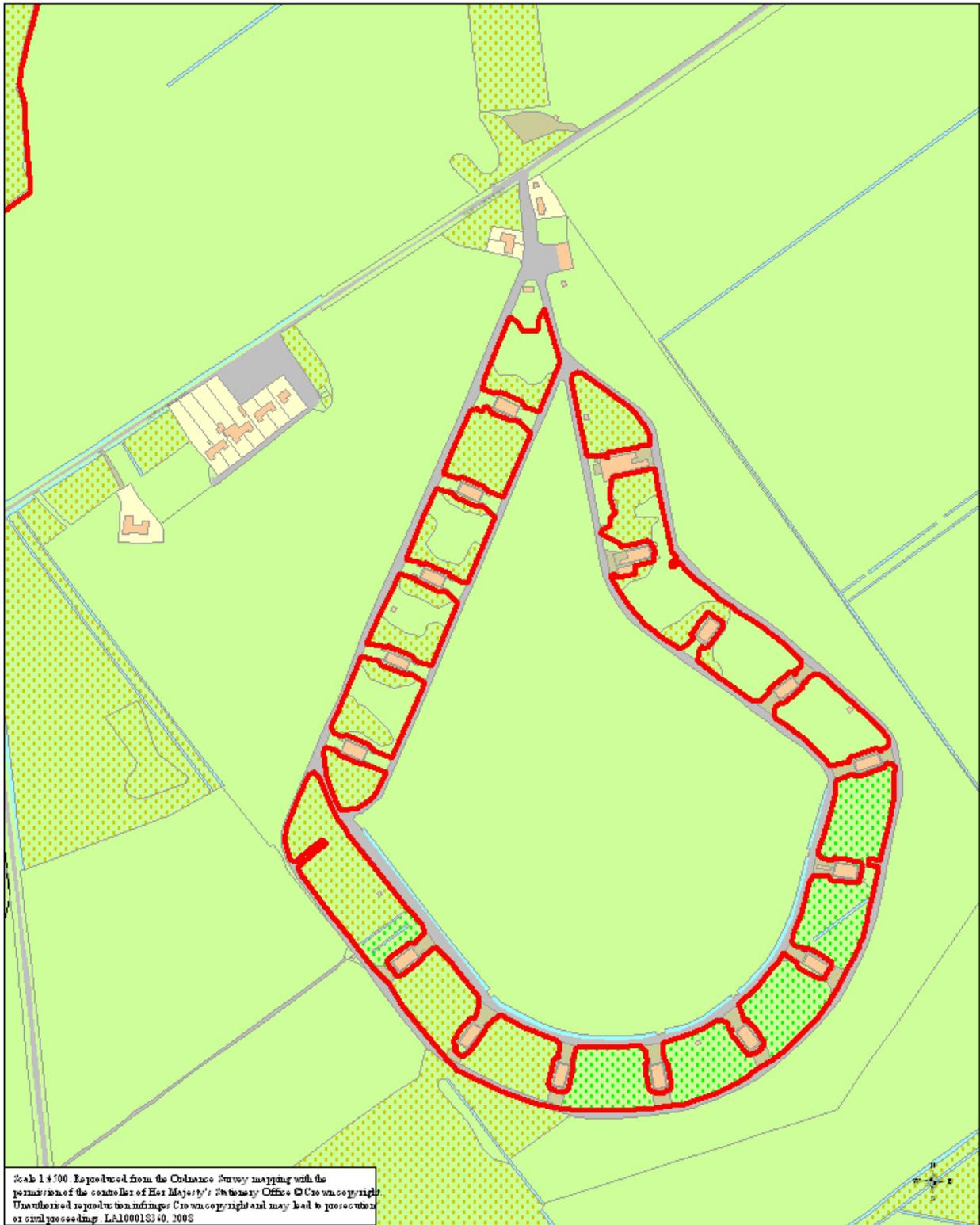
Plants

1 Nationally Rare	Marsh Yellow-cress (<i>Rorippa islandica</i>) – to be confirmed
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>)
3 Locally rare species	Fool's Parsley (<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>) Biting stonecrop (<i>Sedum acre</i>) Hybrid Woundwort (<i>Stachys x ambigua</i>)

Animals

Mammals

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species	Red squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>)
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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Disused Depot, Rainford

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 21 January 2008

Scale 1:4500

Grid Ref: 346227,400455

Drawn: