

**Site Name:** Brown Birches

**Site Area:** 15.7 hectares      **National Grid Reference:** SJ455987

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

**Date of Last Revision:** N/A      **Local Site Number:** 24

**CITATION:** A mixed deciduous and coniferous plantation. This woodland is an important site for both breeding birds and red squirrels. This site abuts a Local Site in Knowsley.

**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	1 regionally important habitat.
H2;	Diversity	4 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	--
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 5 plant species.
SP3;	Naturalness	60% 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	Guideline met – woodland 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

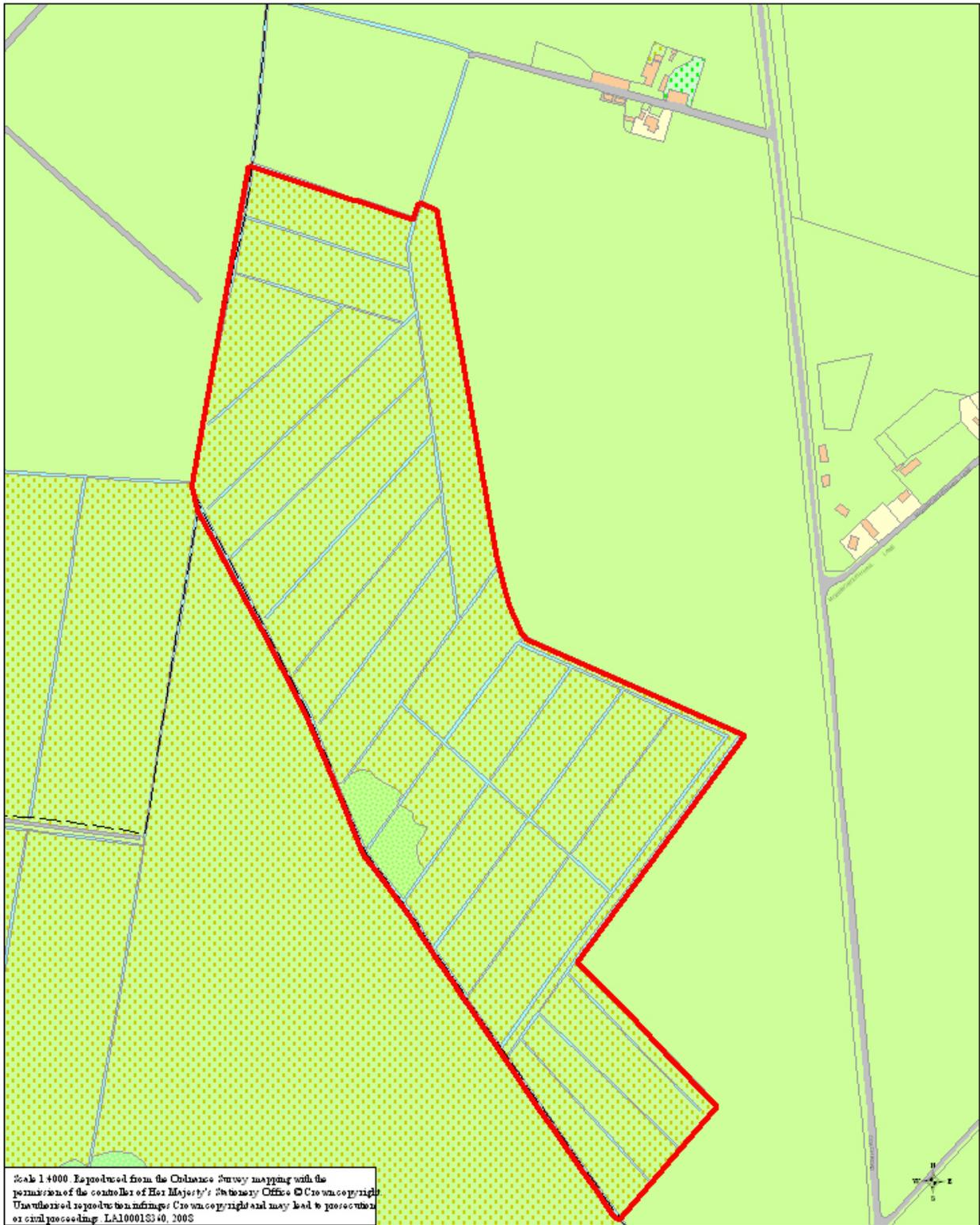
**1 Regionally important habitat  
(North West Biodiversity Audit)**

Standing water

### Animals

#### **Mammal**

**1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species** Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)



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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

**Brown Birches**

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 21 January 2008

Scale 1:4000

Grid Ref: 345435,399020

Drawn: