

Site Name: Willow Park

Site Area: 6.70 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SJ593955

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

Date of Last Revision: N/A **Local Site Number:** 71

CITATION: Willow Park contains a range of habitats including woodland, neutral grassland, marshy grassland, a stream and marginal vegetation. The park supports a number of nationally and locally important plants including English Bluebell and Ragged robin.

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	1 priority BAP habitat; 1 priority Habitats Directive habitat; 2 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	7 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	28 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species; 1 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 56 plant species.
SP3;	Naturalness	82.14% 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.

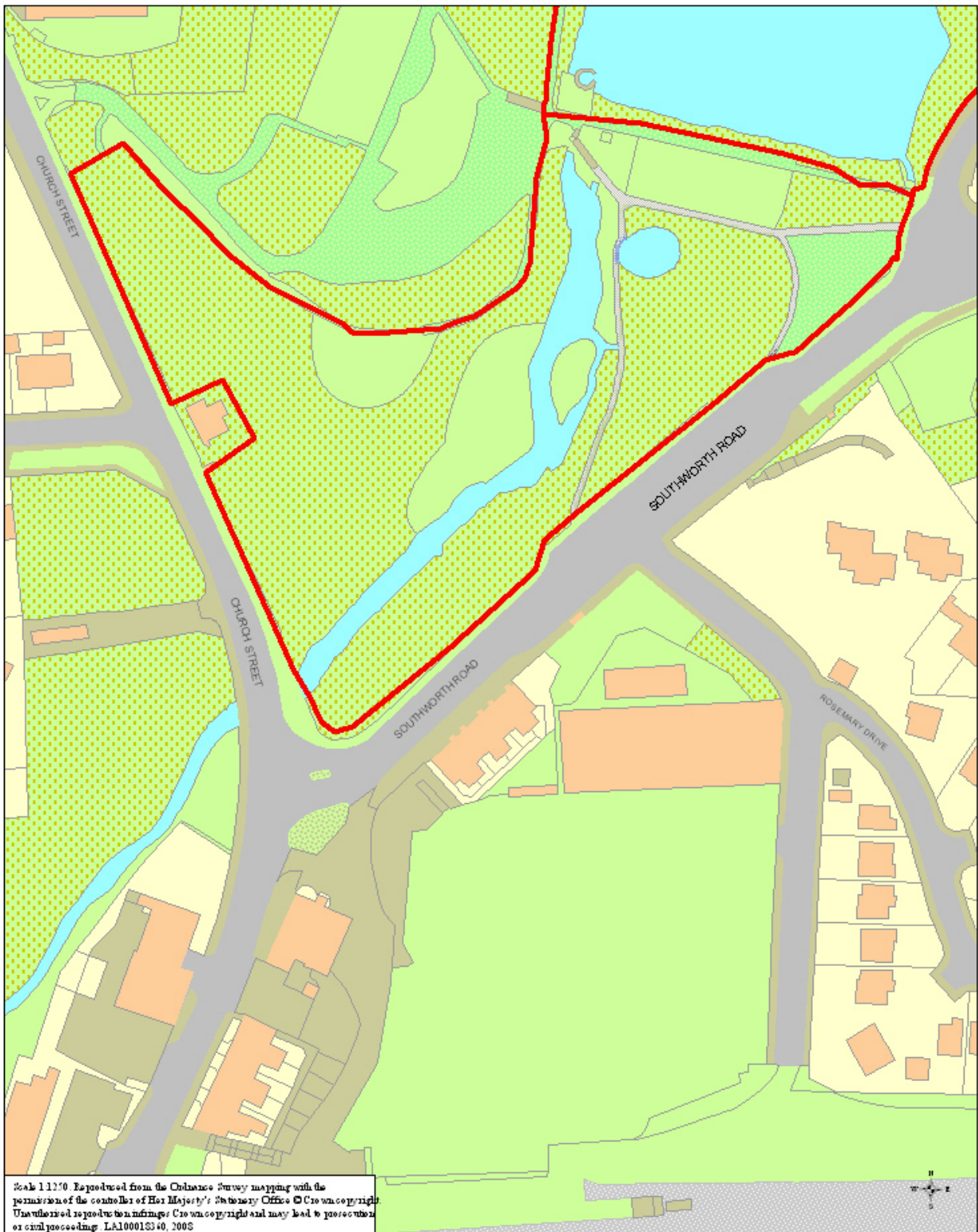
Status of features of nature conservation importance

Habitats

1 Priority BAP habitat	Unimproved neutral grassland
1 Priority Habitat Directive habitat	Unimproved neutral grassland
2 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)	Unimproved neutral grassland Marshy grassland

Plants

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 (North West Biodiversity Audit)	English Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>)
1 Locally rare species	Ragged Robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>)



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URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Willow Park

PLANNING SECTION

Date: 22 January 2008

Scale 1:1250

Grid Ref: 359401,395532

Drawn: