

Site Name: Billinge Hill

Site Area: 12.77 hectares **National Grid Reference:** SD525013

Date of Designation: December 1986 (part) **District:** St. Helens

Date of Last Revision: September 2016 **Local Wildlife Site Number:** 11

CITATION: This site comprises of the summit of the beacon and the restored landfill site. The summit of the beacon supports the only example of upland acid grassland in St. Helens and contains a habitat, which is both nationally and regionally important. The site is important for invertebrates including Black Oil Beetle and mining bees including *Andrena fulva*, *Andrena carantonica* and *Andrena cineraria*. The restored landfill is large neutral grassland site, which is becoming increasingly important for bird species, moths and brown hare.

APPRAISAL: This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council for selection of Local Wildlife Sites. The site's evaluation against the guidelines is set out below.

Guideline		Comment
HABITATS		
H1;	Rarity	2 priority BAP Habitats; 3 regionally important habitats. 12 habitats recorded. 47 sites within 1Km. --
H2;	Diversity	
H3;	Nearness	
H4.	Isolation	
PLANTS		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 2 regionally important species; 4 locally rare species. Total of 129 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species. 89.1% of the plants are native to the borough. Colonisation has been aided by man and the site has been physically altered. --
SP2;	Diversity	
SP3;	Naturalness	
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	--
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SUMMARY: The combination of these factors has led to this site being identified as a Local Wildlife 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 acid grassland
Unimproved neutral grassland

3 Regionally Important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Unimproved acid grassland
Unimproved neutral grassland
Acid / neutral rock exposure

Plants

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

2 Species of conservation concern

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
Black Oil Beetle (*Meloe proscarabeus*)
Brown Hare (*Lepus Europaeus*)

2 Regionally important species

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
Field Mouse-ear (*Cerastium arvense*)

4 Locally rare species

Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*)
Pill sedge (*Carex pilulifera*)
Field Mouse-ear (*Cerastium arvense*)
Heath Groundsel (*Senecio sylvatica*)

