Site Name: Rainford Brook

Site Area: 8.02 hectares National Grid Reference: SJ496987

Date of Designation: December 2003 District: St Helens

Date of Last Revision: N/A Local Site Number: 1

CITATION: A stretch of Rainford brook which supports a population of Water voles.

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; 1 |
| H2;               | Diversity               | regionally important habitat.                                    |
| H3;               | Nearness                | 8 habitats recorded.   |
| H4.               | Isolation               |  |
|                   |                         | 77 sites within 1Km.   |
| PLANTS            |                         |  |
| SP1;              | Rarity                  | 1 regionally important species.                                  |
| SP2;              | Diversity               | Total of 65 plant species.                                       |
| SP3;              | Naturalness             | 89.2% of species 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,   |  |
| Б5.               | wintering, passage.     | -  |
| Dragonflies       | wintering, passage.     |  |
| Od1.              | Breeding                |  |
| Od2.              | Regional rare/scarce    |  |
| Butterflies       | Regional fale/scarce    |  |
| Bf1;              | Region rare breeding    |  |
| Bf2.              |                         |  |
| Amphibians        | Breeding assemblage     |  |
| Amphibians<br>A1; | Rarity                  |  |
| A1,<br>A2.        | 1                       |  |
|                   | Exceptional populations |  |
| Reptiles          | Denulation of mating    |  |
| R1;               | Population of native    |  |
| DO:               | species.                |  |
| R2;               | Exceptional population  |  |
| Bats              | ]                       |  |
| Bat1;             | Roost                   |  |
| Bat2.             | Assemblage              |  |
| Mammals           |                         |  |
| Mam1.             | Breeding                | Guideline met – Water vole.                                      |
|                   |                         |  |

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 habitats Swamp tall fen vegetation

1 Priority Habitat Directive habitats Swamp tall fen vegetation

1 Regionally Important habitats Swamp tall fen vegetation (North West Biodiversity Audit)

## <u>Plants</u>

1 Regionally important species Common comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) (North West Biodiversity Audit)

### **Animals**

### **Mammals**

1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species Water vole (Arvicola amphibius)

