

**Site Name:** Rainford Old Delph & Crank Caverns

**Site Area:** 0.42 hectares      **National Grid Reference:** SJ510995

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

**Date of Last Revision:** N/A      **Local Site Number:** 21

**CITATION:** A broad leaf woodland site above a cave system. The woodland includes several ancient woodland plant indicator species. The cave system is part of the largest known bat roost in north Merseyside.

**APPRAISAL:** This site has been evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Council in 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 locally uncommon habitat.
H2;	Diversity	6 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	--
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 1 regionally important species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 26 plant species.
SP3;	Naturalness	92.3% 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	--
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	Guideline met – Daubenton's Bat and Brown Long-eared Bat.
Bat2.	Assemblage	Guideline met – Daubenton's Bat and Brown Long-eared Bat.
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 Locally uncommon habitat**

Cave

#### Plants

##### **1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species**

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

##### **1 Species of conservation concern (UK Biodiversity Action Plan species)**

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

##### **1 Regionally important species (North West biodiversity Audit)**

English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

#### Animals

##### **Mammals**

##### **2 Habitats Directive species**

Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)  
Brown Long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

##### **2 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species**

Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)  
Brown Long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

