

**Site Name:** Glasshouse Close

**Site Area:** 5.31 hectares      **National Grid Reference:** SJ531972

**Date of Designation::** May 1983 (MCC)      **District:** St Helens

**Date of Last Revision:** December 2003      **Local Site Number:** 43

**CITATION:** Ancient semi natural woodland on the banks of the Black Brook and St Helens Canal. The woodland is dominated by acidic oak woodland with alder and willow carr in the lower wetter areas. The woodland supports a diverse flora including English Bluebell as well as a number of regionally and locally important species. In addition, the woodland is a known breeding site for Purple hairstreak butterfly.

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

<b>Guideline</b>		<b>Comment</b>
<b>HABITATS</b>		
H1;	Rarity	1 priority BAP Habitats; 1 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 3 regionally important habitats; 1 locally uncommon habitat
H2;	Diversity	12 habitats recorded
H3;	Nearness	22 sites within 1Km
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 7 regionally important species; 10 locally rare species
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 174 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	94.25% 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	Guideline met – Willow tit.
B4;	Breeding assemblage	--
B5.	Assemblage, breeding, wintering, passage.	--
Dragonflies		
Od1.	Breeding	--
Od2.	Regional rare/scarce	--
Butterflies		
Bf1;	Region rare breeding	Guideline met – Purple hair-streak.
Bf2.	Breeding assemblage	--
Amphibians		
A1;	Rarity	--
A2.	Exceptional populations	--
Reptiles		
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

<b>1 Priority BAP habitat</b>	Unimproved acid grassland
<b>1 Priority Habitat Directive habitat</b>	Unimproved acid grassland
<b>3 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)</b>	Unimproved acid grassland Marshy grassland Standing water
<b>1 Locally uncommon habitats</b>	Recently felled mixed woodland

#### Plants

<b>1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 8 species</b>	English bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> )
<b>1 Species of conservation concern (UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species)</b>	English bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> )
<b>7 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)</b>	English bluebell ( <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> ) Autumnal Water-starwort ( <i>Callitriche sp. (hermaphroditica)</i> ) Lesser Centaury ( <i>Centaureum pulchellum</i> ) Blunt-flowered Rush ( <i>Juncus subnodulosus</i> ) Adder's-tongue fern ( <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> ) Common Wintergreen ( <i>Pyrola minor</i> ) Northern Dock ( <i>Rumex longifolius</i> )
<b>10 Locally rare species</b>	Hairy-brome ( <i>Bromopsis ramosa</i> ) Autumnal Water-starwort ( <i>Callitriche sp. (hermaphroditica)</i> ) Various-leaved Water-starwort ( <i>Callitriche sp. (platycarpa)</i> ) Great Horsetail ( <i>Equisetum telmateia</i> ) Sun Spurge ( <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> ) Imperforate St John's-wort ( <i>Hypericum maculatum</i> ) Slender St John's-wort ( <i>Hypericum pulchrum</i> ) Creeping-Jenny ( <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> ) Adder's-tongue fern ( <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> ) Northern Dock ( <i>Rumex longifolius</i> )

#### Animals

##### **Birds**

<b>1 North Merseyside rare or scarce species</b>	Willow tit ( <i>Parus montanus</i> )
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##### **Butterflies**

<b>1 North Merseyside rare or scarce species</b>	Purple Hairstreak ( <i>Neozephyrus quercus</i> )
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 <p><b>St. Helens</b> Metropolitan Borough Council</p>	<p>URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT</p> <p><b>Glasshouse Close</b></p>	<p>PLANNING SECTION</p> <p>Date: 21 January 2008</p> <p>Scale 1:2500</p> <p>Grid Ref: 353098,397348</p> <p>Drawn:</p>