

**Site Name:** Stanley Bank Meadow, Ponds and Wood

**Site Area:** 24.44 hectares      **National Grid Reference:** SJ534971

**Date of Designation:** December 1986      **District:** St. Helens

**Date of Last Revision:** December 2003      **Local Site Number:** 45

**CITATION:** This site forms part of Stanley Bank Local Nature Reserve. The site comprises Stanley Bank Meadow SSSI, the largest area of lowland damp neutral grassland in Merseyside, and Stanley Bank Wood ancient semi-natural woodland. This is a diverse range of habitats and over 200 plant species are supported, a number of which are nationally, regionally and locally important.

**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
<b>HABITATS</b>		
H1;	Rarity	3 priority BAP habitats; 3 priority Habitats Directive habitats; 4 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	17 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	19 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	1 WCA_SC8 plant species; 1 species of conservation concern; 4 regionally important species; 17 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 241 plant species. One of 58 sites with more than 100 species.
SP3;	Naturalness	89.63% 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 Hairstreak.
Bf2.	Breeding assemblage	Guideline met.
Amphibians		
A1;	Rarity	--
A2.	Exceptional populations	--
Reptiles		
R1;	Population of native species.	--
R2;	Exceptional population	--
Bats		
Bat1;	Roost	Guideline met – Noctule bat, Daubenton's bat.
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

#### 3 Priority BAP habitats

Unimproved acid grassland  
Unimproved neutral grassland  
Unimproved calcareous grassland

#### 3 Priority Habitat Directive habitats

Unimproved acid grassland  
Unimproved neutral grassland  
Unimproved calcareous grassland

#### 4 Regionally important habitats (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Unimproved acid grassland  
Unimproved neutral grassland  
Marshy grassland  
Standing water

### 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*)

#### 4 Regionally important species (North West Biodiversity Audit)

Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*)  
Spiked sedge (*Carex spicata*)  
English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)  
Adder's Tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*)

#### 17 Locally rare species

Spiked sedge (*Carex spicata*)  
Common spotted-orchid hybrid (*Dactylorhiza fuschii x praetermissa*)  
Broad-leaved heliborine (*Epipactis helleborine*)  
Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*)  
An Eyebright (*Euphrasia rostkoviana* agg.)  
Small Sweet-grass (*Glyceria declinata*)  
Bristle Club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*)  
Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora* spp. *Congesta*)  
Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*)  
Ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)  
Wall lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*)  
Adder's Tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*)  
A moss (*Plagiomnium undulatum*)  
A moss (*Plagiothecium denticulatum*)  
A moss (*Polytrichum longisetum*)  
Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*)  
Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*)

### Animals

#### **Birds**

#### 1 North Merseyside rare or scarce species

Willow tit (*Parus montanus*)

#### **Butterflies**

#### 1 North Merseyside rare or scarce species

Purple Hairstreak (*Neozephyrus quercus*)

#### **Mammals**

#### 2 Habitats Directive species

Noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*)  
Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)

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

Noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*)  
Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)



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**PLANNING SECTION**  
 Date: 23 January 2008  
 Scale 1:5000  
 Grid Ref: 333627, 397183  
 Drawn:

**URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT**  
**Stanley Bank Meadows**

