

**Site Name:** Tunstall's Farm (formerly Field north of Gorsey Lane)

**Site Area:** 15.05 hectares      **National Grid Reference:** SJ534921

**Date of Designation:** April 1994 (part)      **District:** St. Helens

**Date of Last Revision:** September 2016      **Local Wildlife Site Number:** 108

**CITATION:** A group of small agricultural fields with an extensive ditch and hedgerow network. The field is now under Environmental Stewardship and is developing into a species rich meadow including, regionally and locally important species. The ponds and ditches on site provide habitat for water vole and great crested newts.

**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.

<b>Guideline</b>		<b>Comment</b>
<b>HABITATS</b>		
H1;	Rarity	1 priority BAP habitat; 3 regionally important habitats.
H2;	Diversity	11 habitats recorded.
H3;	Nearness	31 sites within 1Km.
H4.	Isolation	--
<b>PLANTS</b>		
SP1;	Rarity	1 regionally important species; 1 locally rare species.
SP2;	Diversity	Total of 74 plant species.
SP3;	Naturalness	95.95% 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	Guideline met – Great crested newt
A2.	Exceptional populations	--
Reptiles		
R1;	Population of native 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 Wildlife Site.

NOTE: Validated data from 1981 to September 2016 have been used in this assessment. Other data may become available to support this designation.

## Status of species of nature conservation importance

### Habitats

#### 1 Priority BAP habitat

Unimproved neutral grassland

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

Unimproved neutral grassland  
Marshy grassland  
Standing water

### Plants

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

Common comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)

#### 1 Locally rare species

Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*)

### Animals

#### **Amphibians**

#### 1 Habitats Regulations 2010 – Schedule 2 species 1 Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 5 species


Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

#### **Mammals**

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

Water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*)



 <p>St. Helens Council</p>	<p>URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT</p> <p><b>Field North of Gorsey Land (Tunstalls Farm)</b></p>	<p>PLANNING SECTION</p> <p>Date: 12 April 2018</p> <p>Scale 1:5000</p> <p>Grid Ref: 353466,392074</p> <p>Drawn: RR</p>
	<p>Works</p>	